銃皇無尽のファフニール EX

インフィニティ・ワールド

ツカサ

Illustration
梱枝りこ



講談社ラノベ文庫

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ティア・ライトニング
Tear Lightning

「こうなったら、ちゅーちゅー作戦なの！」
意を決し、ティアは彼女の胸に吸い付く。ちゅー。
「……や……んくっ……」
フィリルが微かに熱い吐息を漏らした。

フィリル・クレスト
Firill Crest


強引に服を剥ぎ取られ、
深月はベッドに押し倒される。
「ふっふっふ、悲鳴を上げるほど
気持ち良くしてあげますから、
覚悟してください」
「や、やめ……あんっ
……や……あうっ……きゃあっ――」
リーザ・ハイウォーカー
Lisa Highwalker
物部深月
Mitsuki Mononobe


そして皆は声を合わせて叫ぶ。
「ハッピーバースデイ!!」
イリス・フレイア
Iris Freyja

銃皇無尽のファフニール

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銃皇無尽のファフニール

UNLIMITED FAFNIR

STORY

　突如現れたドラゴンと総称される怪物たちにより、世界は一変した——。

　ドラゴンの力を持った、“D”と呼ばれる異能の少女たちが集まる学園・ミッドガル。

　この学園に入学することになった、唯一の男の“D”である少年・物部悠は、イリスや妹の深月らをはじめとするクラスメイトたちとともに、ドラゴンとの戦いに身を投じる。

　悠たちの活躍もあり、7体のドラゴンは表向きには世界から姿を消した。

　だがその後、“終焉”のアンゴルモアが現れ、この世界すべてを呑み込まんとする。

　激しい戦いの末、なんとか勝利した悠たち。

　本巻は、その日々の断片を拾い集めた小さな物語である——



物部深月
Mitsuki Mononobe

三年ぶりに再会した悠の妹。ミッドガル学園の生徒会長であり、竜伐隊の隊長も務めている。架空武装は“五閃の神弓（ブリューナグ）”。

Birthday：3/3



物部悠
Yuu Mononobe

世界でただ一人の男の“D”。軍事組織ニブルに所属していたが、ミッドガルへの異動により、イリスや深月たちと一緒に学園に通うことになった。

Birthday：12/25



イリス・フレイア
Iris Freyja

悠がミッドガルではじめて出会った少女。明るい性格だが、クラスでは落ちこぼれ。架空武装は“双翼の杖（ケリュケイオン）”。

Birthday：7/10



ティア・ライトニング
Tear Lightning

転入生の少女。自分のことを人間ではなくドラゴンだと認識していた。悠にとても懐いている。

Birthday：10/2



フィリル・クレスト
Firill Crest

趣味は読書の、物静かな少女。実はエルリア公国の王女様。架空武装は“架空の魔書(ネクロノミコン)”。

Birthday：4/1



リーザ・ハイウォーカー
Lisa Highwalker

お姉さん肌の少女。面倒見の良い性格で、仲間のことをとても大切に考えている。架空武装は“射抜く神槍(グングニル)”。

Birthday：5/15



ロキ・ヨツンハイム
Loki Jötunheimr

軍事組織ニブルの少佐。悠のかつての直属の上司。

Birthday：11/21



レン・ミヤザワ
Ren Miyazawa

飛び級をしている天才少女。上位元素(ダークマター)生成能力が非常に高い。架空武装は“粉砕する灼鎚(ミョルニル)”。

Birthday：6/12



アリエラ・ルー
Ariella Lu

ボーイッシュな少女。武道の経験がある。架空武装は“牙の盾(アイギス)”。

Birthday：9/27

CHARACTER

UNLIMITED FAFNIR



ヴリトラ
Vritra

“黒”のヴリトラと呼称されるドラゴン。25年前に現れ、一度姿を消したが、人の形をとって再び現れた。

Birthday：不明



キーリ・スルト・ムスペルヘイム
Kili Surtr Muspellzheimr

ドラゴン信奉者団体“ムスペルの子ら”のリーダー。上位元素を熱エネルギーに変換する“禍炎界(ムスペルヘイム)”という技を操る。

Birthday：不明

Prologue

.
「Nn……」
It was bright at the other side of my eyelid. I opened my eyes.
Then a different ceiling that usual entered my eyes. I thought for a while.
──Where is this?
First I sorted out the situation in order.
I──Mononobe Yuu was living as student in Midgard, an isolated island located far south to Japan.
Gathered here were girls with ability to convert material who were called "D".
But I also possessed the ability of "D" despite being a male.
The room that was assigned to a boy like me wasn't in the girl dormitory where other students lived, but in a room of the lodging house of my little sister Mitsuki.
And this room was undoubtedly not my room.
When I moved my gaze, the bright blue sky was expanding there outside the window. The sunlight shining into the room was painful to the eyes, but the location of the sun was still low.
The air of the room was also cool. It allowed me to guess that right now was early morning.
「Kuuuu……suuuu……」
But a warm breathing pushed aside that morning air and touched my neck.
When I looked that way while feeling ticklish, a beautiful girl's sleeping face was there right in front of me.
「……Mitsuki」
I muttered the name of the girl who was the student council president of Midgard Academy and also my little sister.
Both Mitsuki and I were wearing uniform. And it seemed we slept on a bed.
「Aa, I see──yesterday we prepared for Christmas Party until late at night……」
I finally remembered.
This was in the academy's student council room.
I was appointed as an executive committee member of the Christmas party that would be held. I was dealing with a lot of work together with Mitsuki.

However there were also other things like unexpected trouble for example, which took longer than expected to deal with. Our works continued until late at night so we decided to take a bit of nap but━━.
「Even though I said to wake me up after thirty minutes, why is Mitsuki also sleeping together with me……」
I reached out toward Mitsuki who was sleeping soundly, but then she rubbed her cheek on my hand.
「Nnu……Nii-saaan……」
I lost any will to complain seeing that expression. I raised my body and then shook her body.
「Oi, Mitsuki.」
「Nn……?」
Then Mitsuki's systematic sleeper breathing went out of order. Her closed eyelids cracked slightly open.
「Nii, san……?」
Mitsuki stared at me in a daze.
「Morning.」
「…………Good morning. Nnn……what time, is it?」
Mitsuki asked me. I checked the time in my phone.
「It's five thirty in the morning.」
Mitsuki was dumbfounded for a while hearing that. Then she held her head.
「Aaaaaaaaaa……」
「We have done it now.」
「Yes……I only planned to rest for a bit beside Nii-san but……」
Mitsuki stood up unsteadily. Her shoulders dropped in dejection.
「If you wanted to rest, it would be better if you woke me up first wouldn't it?」
I pointed out what was only natural, but Mitsuki glared at me for some reason.
「……This is Nii-san's fault you know? If you showed me a sleeping face that looked so happy……it couldn't be helped that it made me hesitated to wake Nii-san up. It couldn't be helped……that I wanted to stare at Nii-san from the side.」
Mitsuki declared with her head held high.
「That's━━well, my bad.」
Thinking that it would be pointless even if I argued her about that, I plopped my hand on Mitsuki's head.
After all I was the same like her with how I got entranced by her sleeping face.
「No, umm, that, it's not like I'm seriously blaming Nii-san……」
「I know. More importantly we still have time until it's time for class, how about we return to the lodging house first?」
I lightly caressed Mitsuki's head before standing up. Then I offered her my hand.
「……You're right. I want to return and take a shower.」

Mitsuki nodded and took my hand, but for some reason she didn’t show any sign of standing up.

「Mitsuki?」

I looked at her questioningly. Then Mitsuki’s gaze wandered around while she said.

「Umm, N-Nii-san……I’m……still sleepy……I can’t walk well, I think……」

Mitsuki looked at me with an expression of expecting something. I smiled wryly seeing her like that.

「Roger. I’ll carry you on my back, student council president.」

I nodded jokingly before crouching down and presenting my back to her.

「──Please do so, Nii-san.」

Mitsuki answered with a voice that was quite excited despite claiming to be sleepy. She put her hands around my neck and leaned forward on my body.

And then I carried Mitsuki on my back and left the student council room.

「Fufu……Nii-san, you smell a bit sweaty.」

Mitsuki smiled and pushed her face on my neck while I walked through the empty corridor.

「Then it’s fine if you get down.」

「No, absolutely not.」

Mitsuki clung on me tightly.

「……Do you, like this that much?」

Recently Mitsuki would sometimes demand to be carried on my back. I asked Mitsuki who was on my back.

「Yes……because, I can really feel Nii-san like this. That Nii-san is right here……that this isn’t a dream……I can feel it keenly.」

Mitsuki responded with a voice that was seeped with a strong emotion.

Even I somehow understood what Mitsuki was thinking.

After all right now we were spending peaceful ordinary days in Midgard which was really felt like a miracle.

「A lot of thing happened.」

「True……there were a lot of things.」

We thought back.

In this island everlasting summer where Christmas was approaching closely──while following the short path home that was showered by the dazzling morning sunlight──we looked back.

Of the path that we had walked on until this far.

And then at the same time we imagined.

The form of the future that we were heading to from here on──.

Chapter 1 – Girls Talk ~Special Perk Short Stories Collection~

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◆ Brunhilde Gamers 1
https://www.baka-tsuki.org/project/index.php?title=Unlimited_Fafnir:Volume_1_Gamers_SS
◆ Tiger's Nest
https://www.baka-tsuki.org/project/index.php?title=Unlimited_Fafnir:Volume_1_Toranoana_SS
◆ Midgard's Days 1
Midgard Academy's student council president━━Mononobe Mitsuki received requests from the students almost every day.
Mitsuki was taking care of paperwork alone in the student council president until it was late and the evening sun shined in. She raised her head when a reserved knocking sound came from the door.
「━━Please come in.」
「E-excuse mee……」
The one who opened the door and entered inside was her classmate Iris Freya. She nervously looked around inside the student council room, then she sighed in relieve when she saw that Mitsuki was alone.
「Umm……actually, I come because there is something that I want to consult with Mitsuki-chan a little.」
「Yes, what is it?」
「Err, I heard a rumor that after this there will be a shopping mall build in Midgard but……is it true?」
「It's true. We received requests from the students and currently it's being built near the girl dormitory. The examination is very strict but, world-wide famous brands are already expressing their wish to open their store there.」
「Ah, as I thought the building beside the dormitory is for that! Then, can we make a request that ask for something like perhaps, wanting this kind of story to come here?」
「Let's see……we are planning to respect the student's wish as much as possible.」
「Then, I━━think it'll be great if there is a story that has a lot of anime or manga!」

「Anime and manga……is it? I never thought that Iris-san has that kind of hobby.」
「Aa……I too only knew about them just recently though. That’s……when I studied Japan’s culture because I want to get closer with Mononobe……I got addicted to them before I knew it, something like that.」
Iris scratched her head shyly. Mitsuki sighed really deeply.
「I see……so Nii-san is the cause.」
「Ah, b-but, Mononobe is just the impetus. Well, I also thought a little that perhaps it will be really fun if we can watch anime together though……wait, ignore that! I-I didn’t say anything just now!」
「……Understood. I didn’t hear anything. Anyway I have heard what Iris-san’s request is, We’ll use that as reference if there is a business asking to open a store of that genre. If other students also come with similar request like Iris-san, we will also consider making the request by our own initiative.」
「Hooray! Thank you Mitsuki-chan!」
Iris said her thanks with an excited voice before immediately walking toward the door.
「Please wait Iris-san.」
「Hm, what is it?」
「No, that’s……not just anime…………if you like, please try watching show like tokusatsu and the like. Surely you will find it interesting.」
Mitsuki spoke with a small voice. Her cheeks looked red, perhaps because of the sunset──.



◆ Midgard’s Days 2

The “D” girls possessed special power. Midgard Academy that gathered them in one spot was protected by a solid defensive system. Anyone without qualification wouldn’t even be permitted to get near. The girl dormitory inside such enclosed academy was really a place that should be called as a secret flower garden but──.

「Lisa-chan, Lisa-chan, patrolling is thrilling isn’t it-」

「Iris-san, don’t frolic too much. We aren’t playing around you know?」

──Their actual living wasn’t really different from the high school girls at the outside world. They fundamentally got a room assigned for each of them, but it was also possible to have a roommate if they wished for it.

And then, there was a system where the people on duty were tasked with looking around at the rooms after it was lights-out time. Today it was Iris Freya and Lisa Highwalker’s turn.

「Ah, Lisa-chan. Over there, there is light leaking out.」

Iris rotated around the flashlight she was carrying to point at the line of light extending out from the door’s gap.

「That’s Ariella-san and Ren-san’s room. Good grief……it will be troubling if they don’t make any effort so that their staying up late won’t get discovered.」

Lisa sighed and intentionally made her footsteps to echo loudly through the corridor.

Then some noisy hurried sound came from inside the room before the light was turned off.

「……Lisa-chan, you’re unexpectedly kind.」

「Rule originally isn’t something to crack down on violation, but to maintain the order on the surface. There is no need to punish someone if they have the intention to obey it.」

「Also, you will say complicated things sometimes……I don’t understand a lot of them.」

Iris found it difficult to comprehend Lisa’s roundabout talk. She was frowning and tilting her head.

「Haa……Iris-san is airy like usual.」

「Airy-? In what kind of meaning?」

「It’s fine if you don’t get it. Come on, let’s continue ahead.」

「Ah, wait for me Lisa-chan!」

Lisa quickened her walking pace. Iris chased after her with a small jog. The two of them checked that there was no sound or light leaking out from each room while walking through the corridor.

「Even so……the discipline of the academy on the whole has become better since he came. The result is the complete opposite of what I expected.」
Lisa muttered while shining the ground under her with her flashlight.
「By him, you mean Mononobe?」
「Yes, I get the feeling that everyone has become slightly more ladylike since he transferred. It looks like the gaze of opposite sex has greater influence that I thought.」
「Hee……then Lisa-chan is also conscious about Mononobe?」
「Wha-……I, I’m not feeling anything at all about someone like him!」
「Is that so? Recently the smell of your shampoo often change, so I wondered if you are concerned about a lot of things……」
「T-that’s……Iris-san, you are sharp when it comes to unnecessary thing aren’t you? I wish that you will make use of that power of observation for other things more.」
Lisa sighed with a tired look.
「Ah, as I thought Lisa-chan is conscious of Mononobe. Hey, do you perhaps know what is the shampoo that he like?」
「I-I don’t know about something like that. Recently I’m using the Japanese product that I ordered and watch his reaction when we passed by each other but……wait, in the end this is just for maintaining my dignity as a girl, it’s not because of for him at all you know?」
Lisa made excuse in panic. But Iris didn’t hear almost all her words at the latter half.
「Aa, I seee……so it’s not just a matter of using the expensive product huh. As expected from Lisa-chan……I learn a lot from you.」
Iris folded her arms and nodded in admiration.
「Haa……I have enough. If I learn about his preference, I’ll teach it to you at that time.」
「Really? Thank you Lisa-chan!」
「Wait, please don’t hug me. It’s stuffy.」
Like that the girls patrolled the girl dormitory at night livelily.
They would be scolded by the dorm head right after this because of how noisy they were being──.



◆ Midgard’s Days 3

Iris Freya’s morning was flurried recently.

She turned off the alarm that rang out around six in the morning and hugged her pillow to fall asleep again. Just as she closed her eyes, the room’s door was knocked.

「It’s morning! Wake up Iris-san!」

「……yhees」

Iris got down from her bed with sleepy eyes and opened the door. There Lisa was waiting for her while standing imposingly.

「Come on, dress up quickly. I’ll have you help out after all.」

Lisa said that and entered inside the room. She briskly helped Iris changed clothes. Furthermore she also combed Iris’s messy head from waking up and applied sunscreen cream that was a necessary item in this Midgard with its strong sunlight.

「Hey……Lisa-chan, you always came every morning recently, why?」

Iris allowed herself to be handled like that while asking the helpful Lisa.

「It’s because I’m worried of leaving you alone. I can’t take off my eyes of you because you are always so airy……ah, you are wearing underwear properly aren’t you?」

Lisa reminded her with a serious gaze.

「Y-yep, look, I’m wearing it you know?」

Iris flipped up her skirt.

「Aah geez, even if both of us are woman, you mustn’t do something like that so casually. If you don’t always have shame at all time, you will carelessly do the same thing in front of Mononobe Yuu too you know?」

「Eh!? T-that will be troubling! He will think of me as a vulgar girl if I do something like showing him my panty even though he doesn’t say that he want to see it……」

「The way you say that make it sound like you will show it if he tell you that he want to see.」

「Eh, well……if it’s Mononobe’s request, then just that much is……」

Iris blushed and fidgeted.

「Perhaps you are already, beyond help if it’s like this.」

Lisa sighed in exasperation even while tidying up Iris’s appearance and pulled her hand.

「──Come on, let’s go to the dining room. Everyone is already going ahead.」

「Yep, ah……umm, Lisa-chan thank you.」

「Rather than thanking me, I wish that you will act a bit more properly from now.」

The two of them headed to the dining room. Their golden and silver hairs fluttered behind them.
That sight was like a firm big sister and a troublesome little sister walking side by side harmoniously.
◆ Midgard's Days 4
https://www.baka-tsuki.org/project/index.php?title=Unlimited_Fafnir:Volume_2_Toranoana_SS
◆ Brunhilde Gamers 2
https://www.baka-tsuki.org/project/index.php?title=Unlimited_Fafnir:Volume_2_Gamers_SS
◆ Midgard's Days 5
「──This is an unusual combination isn't it, for Iris and me to patrol together like this.」
Ariella's voice that she kept low echoed through the corridor of the girl dormitory at night.
「Y-yep……this is, the first time.」
Iris nodded while looking like she was slightly lacking composure. The two of them were patrolling together after it was time for lights-out.
「Haha, your voice is stiff. As I thought, are you not good with me Iris?」
「T-that's, it's not like I'm not good with you. But, I'm just a bit nervous……」
「Nervous huh. Well, it can't be helped I guess. I was really harsh with you after all. I said a lot of things before, like telling you to not hold us back.」
「But……Ariella-chan spoke harshly like that for my sake right?」
Iris asked with an upward gaze. Ariella smiled wryly.
「I guess half of it was for Iris, while the rest was for my own sake. Because as expected, I also don't want to die.」
「It's enough if even half of it was for my sake. I think Ariella-chan is a really honest and good person.」
「……It's embarrassing being told that right from the front like that.」
Ariella awkwardly averted her gaze and scratched her cheek.
「Ariella-chan is really a shy person huh. You would also get really flustered like when you got praised by Mononobe too.」



「Wha-……t-that was because he said something that could invite misunderstanding──besides, if you are talking about a shy person then Ren fit the bill far more than me.」
「Ah, Ren-chan might get angry if you say that.」
Iris said that and pointed at a room that had light leaking out. The door there was slightly opened and Ren was staring still toward their way from there.
Ren and Ariella were roommates. That room was also Ariella’s living space.
「Wah!? R-Ren, you heard that?」
「Nn.」
Ren nodded briefly and closed the door. There was also the sound of the lock clicking.
「Aaah! I’m sorry, that’s why don’t lock me out!」
Ariella banged on the door. Seeing that Iris suggested to her.
「Do you want to sleep in my room today?」
「Uu……can I ask you to do that?」
Ariella dropped her shoulders and decided to accept Iris’s kindness.
◆ Midgard’s Days 6
There was short break time in between classes.
Tia Lightning and Ariella Lu exited the toilet at the same timing. They returned together to the classroom.
「Say, why is Ariella using ‘boku’ to refer to yourself?」
Tia suddenly asked such thing to Ariella while they were walking side by side.
「Eh?」
Ariella had never walked alone with Tia until now and felt slightly nervous inside. She panicked from the sudden question.
「’Boku’ is a word that is usually used by male isn’t it?」
「Y-yeah, about that──when I studied Japanese, I used Japanese dramas and movies as reference. At the start I saw the main character calling himself ‘boku’. From there it spread to me.」
Ariella strangely answered with a rapid talk.
「Ariella isn’t thinking to fix that?」
「No, at first I also thought that but……I was told that calling myself with that suit me. That was why I thought that perhaps it’s fine for me to keep using it.」
「Then, Ariella is a girl as Tia thought!」
Tia said that with a face that looked as though the load in her chest had been removed.
「Wait, don’t tell me you thought that I’m a man?」

「Nope. Ariella is wearing girl clothes, so Tia thought that Ariella perhaps a girl. But Ariella referred to yourself with 'boku'……so Tia was a bit unsure.」
「I'm shocked that you suspected me even just for a bit……」
Ariella dropped her shoulders.
「Don't tell me, Mononobe-kun also doesn't harbor the same suspicion right……I have also shown myself wearing swimsuit to him so I think that it's surely fine though……no, but……」
Ariella was muttering with a gloomy face.
「Ariella?」
She didn't seem to hear even when Tia called out to her. Then Ariella sighed deeply.
「Perhaps, it will be better if I show off my feminine side a bit more……」
◆ Midgard's Days 7
Tia Lightning who belonged to Brunhilde class was the only one with different learning progress, so during the class she was usually working on teaching materials for elementary education.
Today too she had math exercises spread out on her desk while she was silently solving the questions.
For Tia studying wasn't something she was bad with. Especially mathematic problem, the harder the question was the more it looked like a complicated puzzle for her. It made her completely absorbed in it.
But because she concentrated on the question too much, her elbow carelessly moved and dropped her eraser.
「Ah」
Tia hurriedly searched under her desk, but she didn't find it anywhere. Then a hand was quietly held out in front of her.
「Nn」
It was the hand of Ren Miyazawa who sat beside Tia. Her hand was holding the eraser she dropped. She found it first and picked it up for her.
「Thank you.」
「……Nn」
Ren nodded when Tia thanked her before looking forward again.
Furthermore during the next class, Tia put too much strength and the lead of her pencil snapped.
「Nn」
Then her shoulder was tapped from the side. Ren handed a pencil that had been sharpened really well to her.
「T-thank you.」
「……Nn」
Ren shook her head as though to tell her to not mind it. Then her gaze returned toward the teacher's podium.
And then at lunch break──Tia asked Ren while they were heading toward the cafeteria together.
「Ren, why are you always helping Tia right away?」

Then Ren blushed before she took out a small tablet and quickly typed in letters. She showed what she typed to Tia.
「……Because Ren is, Onee-san?」
After Tia read the letters, Ren nodded shortly.
「I see……Ren is Tia’s Onee-san!」
Tia hugged Ren happily.
「……!?」
Ren went red until her ears. Even so her lips was making a small smile. It was her modest smile that she rarely ever showed.



◆ Midgard’s Days 8
https://www.baka-tsuki.org/project/index.php?title=Unlimited_Fafnir:Volume_3_Toranoana_SS
◆ Brunhilde Gamers 3
https://www.baka-tsuki.org/project/index.php?title=Unlimited_Fafnir:Volume_3_Gamers_SS
◆ Midgard’s Days 9
「Hee……so boys will be happy from this kind of thing.」
Inside Brunhilde classroom in the early morning──Firill Crest had woken up earlier than usual and went to school ahead of everyone. She was reading book inside the classroom.
「Firill-chan, what book are you reading today?」
But a voice suddenly called out to her from behind. Firill’s shoulders jerked in surprise.
「Eh……I-Iris? Since when……」
When Firill turned around, her classmate Iris Freya was standing there.
「Just now. Didn’t I greet you good morning?」
「……I was too focused that I didn’t notice.」
Firill said that while casually moving to put the book she read inside her desk.
「Why are you hiding the book?」
But Iris sharply noticed that.
「That’s, I’m not really hiding it……」
Firill averted her gaze after she was found out and made excuse.
「C-could it be──that’s an adult book!?」
「N-no. It’s a book intended for man but……it’s not that kind of thing.」
Firill denied it in panic.
「Intended for man? That’s rare, usually you don’t really read that kind of book.」
「Well……I just, want to know about a man’s feeling for a bit.」
「I see. Do you learn a lot of things from it?」
Iris asked with deep interest. Firill nodded to her.
「Yes, first……man like big breasts. They will be happy just from a woman’s breast touching them a little.」
「Eh? Even though it only touch a little?」
「Right……it doesn’t matter wherever it touch on their body, the man’s heart will skip a beat just from that.」
Firill declared decisively.
「Hmm, that’s a bit cute isn’t it.」
「Yes, quite.」

Firill nodded in agreement. And then she explained further about what she learned from the book.
「Also──」
Iris listened to that while thinking 「I wonder if Mononobe is also like that」 inside her heart.
◆ Midgard’s Days 10
Midgard was an “academy”. It had a large library building where books from various countries were gathered. The number of the books there was significant, but students who used the library were few.
Even in case where they needed some kind of data, they could directly access the library’s database through their personal computer, so the necessity for coming personally to the library was slim.
However, Firill Crest often visited this place.
「Fuu……」
Firill exhaled after she finished reading the last page. She closed the hard cover old book and immersed herself in post reading aftertaste for a while.
Firill had decided to read library book in the library. It wasn’t like she never borrowed any book at all, but because her own room was already crammed with a lot of book, she decided to not borrow any more book.
The library was filled with silence.
Normally it wasn’t rare for there to be no other people than Firill here, but today there was one other student making use of the library.
The red haired petite student had placed t thick academic book on the table and went on reading the drawing and lines of letters that looked hard to understand with a serious expression.
「──Ren, the library is going to close soon you know?」
Although Firill felt a little bad for disturbing her, she called out to her classmate Ren Miyazawa.
「Nn.」
Then Ren lifted her face and closed her book in a snap.
「You are finished?」
「Nn-」
Ren nodded shortly and stood up from her chair.
She would sometimes come to the library for rare science book. Most likely she was the student who used the library the most next after Firill.
Firill mostly read nothing but story book. Their use of library was fundamentally different, but something similar to a feeling of solidarity was budding between them.
The two of them returned the book they read to the shelves, greeted the familiar librarian, and left the library.
Firill’s eyes narrowed from the dazzling sunset and talked to Ren.
「Hey, the latest issue of that manga has arrived. You want to read it?」
「Nn!」
Ren’s face brightened and she nodded her head many times.

Like that the two of them walked back home with their shadows stretching long behind them.
◆ Midgard’s Days 11
https://www.baka-tsuki.org/project/index.php?title=Unlimited_Fafnir:Volume_4_Toranoana_SS
◆ Brunhilde Gamers 4
https://www.baka-tsuki.org/project/index.php?title=Unlimited_Fafnir:Volume_4_Gamers_SS
◆ Midgard’s Carnival Side Story 1
The second day of the school festival.
Today Iris, Firill, Ariella, and Ren had the whole day for themselves. They were walking inside the school that was bustling with visitors coming and going.
「Hey hey, where are we going next?」
Iris asked everyone with a bright expression. Firill who was looking at the pamphlet raised her face.
「It looks like Gerhilde class is doing “fortune telling manor”.」
「Fortune telling huh. I never get anything like done to me, so I’m interested.」
Ariella peeked at the pamphlet from the side and said that.
「Nn.」
Ren also agreed with Ariella and nodded briefly.
「Theen, let’s take off to Gerhilde class!」
Iris raised her hand and declaraed so. They headed toward Gerhilde class.
The “fortune telling manor” consisted of just dark curtain hanged on the windows and the classroom decorated with ornaments to create that kind of atmosphere. The structure of the classroom was completely the same with Brunhilde class.
It seemed to be popular. A lot of female students were lining up at the entrance.
「Uwah, the line is amazing.」
Firill gazed at the long line and said.
「Is their fortune telling that accurate……」
Iris muttered in surprise. Then Ren pulled at her clothes from the side.
「What’s the matter Ren-chan?」
「Nn」
Ren pointed to the signboard at the entrance. There “Fortune Telling Manor! Predicting Your Love Fortune” was written in large letters.
「It seems they specialize in love fortune.」
Ariella muttered. Iris and others looked at each other.
「B-but, love……in Midgard, there is no man other than Mononobe isn’t it?」
Iris spoke hastily. Firill also blushed slightly.
「T-that’s right but……I think it’s also possible, that they have someone back home in their heart, or love between girls.」

「Aa, I see. I completely thought that all of them are asking about their love fortune with Mononobe!」

Iris smiled brightly, but an awkward silence enveloped the surrounding.

Even the girl students lining up in front of the fortune telling manor were averting their gazes awkwardly.

「Umm, the line is this long……so how about we come back here again later?」

Ariella read the mood and made that suggestion. Iris and others nodded 「Y-you're right!」 to that.

They immediately left Gerhilde class, but Iris looked back with slight reluctance.

「……I wanted, to get my fortune told though.」

◆ Midgard's Carnival Side Story 2

The second day of the school festival──Iris Freya who was in the middle of free time stopped walking in front of Ortlinde class.

「Look look! It said photo exhibition!」

Firill, Ariella, and Ren who were looking around together with her stopped walking slightly behind Iris.

「Hee, so Ortlinde class is doing exhibition.」

「Something like this also seems interesting.」

Firill agreed with Ariella's words. Ren also nodded 「Nn」.

When they entered the classroom, the inside where photos were displayed was filled to the brim with female students.

「……It's more crowded than expected.」

Ariella muttered in surprise.

「What is making it this popular?」

Firill looked around in puzzlement.

The displayed photos were only pictures that were taken inside Midgard. All of them were beautiful but, they didn't seem like something that could attract this many visitors.

「Ah, it looks like there is something deeper inside.」

Iris pointed at a spot that was especially crowded with female students.

Iris and others headed over there and parted through the human sea.

「Nnnnn……」

Ren tightly held Ariella's hand so that she wouldn't get washed away.

Like that they arrived at the display that was exhibiting something unexpected.

「Special exhibition that is limited to the second day, featuring Yuu-sama? What in the world is this……」

Ariella read the caption that was put on the panel's upper part with an astounded voice.

「Waa, there are only Mononobe's pictures here!」

Iris raised her voice in surprise seeing the displayed photos.

The panel here only had Mononobe Yuu's pictures put up. It was a wonder where did they took all this pictures.

「This many, since when……」
Firill muttered while feeling half impressed.
「Nn」
Ren pulled at Firill's sleeve insistently. She pointed at a photo that was especially attention grabbing.
「T-this is──」
Firill's gaze was snatched by that photo. Her voice was shaking.
The picture of Mononobe Yuu wearing swimsuit with the sunset behind him was there.
「Ah, this one is really good! I want oneee」
Iris sighed in admiration seeing that picture. Then a suspicious looking female student who was hiding her face with a sunglasses and a mask approached her from behind.
「……Dear customer, I have with me a postcard set of the displayed photos. I'll give you a cheap price you know?」
「Eh, really? Then I'll buy it!」
Iris answered instantly. After her Firill also raised her hand hesitantly.
「Umm……me too.」
Like that the sales of the shrewd Ortlinde class was recorded as number one of the school festival.
◆ Midgard's Carnival Side Story 3
https://www.baka-tsuki.org/project/index.php?title=Unlimited_Fafnir:Volume_5_Toranoana_SS
◆ Brunhilde Gamers 5
https://www.baka-tsuki.org/project/index.php?title=Unlimited_Fafnir:Volume_5_Gamers_SS
◆ School Wars First
「──Team one secure the route, team two, please be careful against someone approaching the operation area.」
Inside the class, during break time. Mitsuki had a communicator on her ear while she was in contact with someone.
Seeing that, Iris tilted her head in puzzlement and approached Mitsuki.
「Mitsuki-chan, what are you doing?」
「It's student council duty.」
Mitsuki glanced at Iris and answered her briefly. Then a faint voice leaked out from the communicator.
「President! Emergency situation! A group of Ortlinde class students is exiting from the clock tower's staff room. At this rate they will come into contact with Mononobe Yuu at the passage!」
Mitsuki's expression changed when she heard that report.
「Immediatley seal the passage and make that group take a detour. I permit the usage of fake cleaning display.」
「Roger!」
Iris flinched from Mitsuki's tension.
「Umm……just now, I heard Mononobe's name though?」

Iris asked hesitantly. Mitsuki sighed at her.
「Just now──Nii-san is going to toilet isn't he?」
「Ah, yep. There is no toilet for male in this building, so he has to go until the clock tower……」
Iris nodded to Mitsuki's question.
「In order to maintain this academy's public order, I'm managing the route so that Nii-san won't encounter female students of other classes while he is on the way.」
「Heh?」
Iris's eyes widened.
「If there is one of us at Nii-san's side, there won't be any student who try to interact with Nii-san excessively. However Nii-san is alone right now. Imagining what might happen if he encounter a girl……」
Mitsuki spoke of her anxiety to Iris with a gloomy expression.
「You can just go with him if you are that worried Mitsuki-chan.」
「No matter how you look at it, it's unnatural to accompany Nii-san until the male toilet far away. Besides I don't want to make Nii-san feel cooped up, so I don't want to hover around him too much.」
「And so you maneuver behind the scene……the student council have it hard.」
Iris smiled wryly, but she looked like she suddenly recalled something and continued speaking.
「Ah──but, are the student council members monitoring Mononobe not going to make any move themselves?」
「There is no worry for that. Because I have carefully selected students who have no interest to male for student council special squad.」
Mitsuki answered casually.
「A, haha……I see.」
Iris smiled with a twitching expression while feeling a bit regretful. Perhaps it would be better if she didn't ask it.
◆ School Wars End
The light of the red setting sun was shining in. A sweet aroma was drifting inside the student council room at evening.
「──Everyone, thank you for your hard work.」
Mononobe Mitsuki gave her words of appreciation toward the lined up female students.
「President Mitsuki too, thank you for your hard work.」
Mitsuki's loyal subordinates saluted while replying in unison.
「Then, this is today's reward. I'm looking forward for everyone's help too tomorrow.」
Mitsuki gestured to show the small wrapping that was placed on the table. The girls immediately cheered 「Kyaaa! Thank you so much!」 and took the wrapping.
The girls exited the student council room while talking excitedly.
And then Mitsuki who was left alone, but there a student opened the door.

「So just now is the student council special squad that I heard from rumor.」
The one who showed up was Mitsuki's classmate, Lisa Highwalker.
She brushed up her blonde hair and talked to Mitsuki who sat on her president chair.
「Yes, they are elites who are working for the sake of maintaining the academy's public order.」
「I heard that they are students who swear loyalty to the president more than anyone but……I now know the reason for that from just now.」
Lisa shrugged and continued her words.
「The small wrapping that they have with them……that is handmade sweets of Mitsuki-san isn't it?」
「Yes, I'm amazed that you know that.」
「That's because of the very nice smell from it. So those girls are baited by Mitsuki-san's superb sweets.」
Lisa answered like that while staring around at the inside of the student council room.
「And, what is Lisa-san's business with me?」
Lisa answered Mitsuki's question with a slightly shaken look.
「N-no, I'm, it's……I was only passing by in front of the student council room as I returned from the staff room……then I caught sight of the special squad members coming out──」
「In other words, Lisa-san is lured by the aroma of sweets that they have with them. But unfortunately, I have no more left here.」
「I-is that so……l-let me tell you first, it's not like I come here because I want to eat sweets!」
Lisa sighed in disappointment before she made excuse with a red face.
「Ah, but, I still have leftover sweets for Nii-san and myself inside my bag in the class.」
「Eh?」
Lisa's face brightened, but she had just declared that she didn't want to eat sweets. Her pride got in her way to go back on her words.
「Mumumu……」
Lisa groaned with a conflicted face. Mitsuki smiled wryly seeing that.
「I can't give Lisa-san any from Nii-san's portion, but I'll share with you half of mine.」
「Really!? Ah……I mean, if you are going to give me some, then I guess I can accept it.」
「Yes, I'll be happy if Lisa-san eat them.」
Mitsuki left the student council office together with Lisa who was still bluffing.
◆ Emerald Tempest Side Story 1
The amusement park where everyone went to──inside, there was an attraction of vertical drop that was emitting a great presence.
Firill Crest muttered in a daze in front of it.
「Lisa……you are seriously, riding this?」

「Of course. Ren-san and Tia-san said that it’s scary and impossible for them, so let’s ride it with just us while everyone is taking a break.」

Lisa nodded with a lively expression. Firill stared fixedly at her.

「Why are you asking me to come with you for this?」

「Naturally, it’s for my payback for Firill-san’s usual behavior. You often showed me scary game and movie knowing that I’m not good with horror aren’t you?」

「Because……Lisa’s reaction is funny, and cute.」

Firill answered uncomfortably.

「That’s why, this time please show me your cute side Firill-san. I won’t allow you to escape.」

Lisa stressed to her. Firill sighed in resignation.

「……I get it. I’ll accompany you, just once.」

「That’s good. Then, let’s go!」

Lisa pulled Firill’s hand and headed toward the attraction in high spirit.

When their turn came and they sat on the seat, Firill’s face turned pale.

「Firill-san is really not good with thrill machine huh. Though from my perspective, horror is far scarier than this.」

Lisa muttered in puzzlement. But Firill didn’t have any leeway to answer her anymore.

And then the attraction started moving. First was a vertical climb with great speed. And then it was a vertical drop from the zenith.

「KYAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!? Floating, floating-!? FALLINGGGGGGGG!?」

Firill was seriously screaming. Lisa was shouting joyfully beside her.

「This is the bestttt!!」

The climb and drop didn’t end with just once. It was repeated several times──when the attraction finally stopped, Firill couldn’t even raise her voice anymore.

「Uu……」

Firill wordlessly hugged Lisa after getting down from the attraction.

「……hics」

Firill buried her head into Lisa’s chest. Lisa smiled wryly seeing that.

「I understand a little now the reason Firill-san like to tease me. Certainly……it’s a cute reaction.」

Lisa caressed Firill’s head while saying *there there* to console her.

「……I hate Lisa.」

「But I like Firill-san you know?」

「Muu……」

Firill puffed her cheeks in dissatisfaction, after that──she replied 「Me too」 with a small voice.



◆ Emerald Tempest Side Story 2
「Finally……finally I'm here.」
Firill clenched her fist and said that.
On the way back from the amusement park──they should go back quickly because there was unforeseen situation, but due to Firill's strong desire, Brunhilde class group stopped by in a certain electric town.
「This is……this place is, that Akihabara──」
「Firill-san, we don't have much time you know? Our free time is one hour. After that we will gather in front of the station.」
Mitsuki told the schedule to Firill who was trembling in happiness.
「Then, I can't even waste a single second……I'm, going!」
Firill started running and left behind everyone.
「Ah, please wait! I'm coming too!」
Lisa sensed that it would be dangerous in various senses if Firill was left to her own device and chased after her.
「……It's fine for Lisa to come along but, the stimulation here might be too strong for you.」
Firill threw a line that was filled with implication at Lisa who was at her side.
「Stimulating you say……if it's Firill-san's hobby then I already know about it.」
Lisa sighed in exasperation.
「Nope, what Lisa has seen until now is only a bit at the surface. My collections……has more depth than that.」
「Wha──even that, is still only the surface……」
Lisa's face reddened and she faltered.
「Can you keep up?」
「……Perhaps it will be impossible, so I'll stick to carry the luggage only.」
「Lisa is so brave. Perhaps, that's the right choice.」
Firill smiled mysteriously. She pulled Lisa's hand and started going around the shops.
Firill had stuffed her basket with a lot of 'thin books' since the first shop.
Lisa frowned seeing that.
「You are buying so many, but will you be able to bring all of them back? As expected, Shinomiya-sensei will get angry if she finds them……」
「No problem. I'll deliver them directly to Midgard from here.」
Firill made a thumb up and answered calmly.
「I don't know how many you are buying but……please don't leave them in my room.」

Lisa gave Firill a reminder and shook the basket that was completely full to show how heavy it was.
Like that they went around to three shops. Firill shipped off five cardboard boxes worth of books in the end. After that she stretched her body while groaning *uuuun.*
「Fuu……with this I'm surely won't be troubled with things for one year.」
「That many is just for one year……」
Lisa muttered with an astounded expression. She took out her phone and checked the time.
「It'll be time to meet up soon. Let's go back.」
「Wait, let's look for game before that.」
Firill stopped Lisa from walking away.
「Game?」
「You know, for the game party that is turning into our custom. I'm going to run out of material soon, so I want to get some kind of interesting game before that.」
「……Only until it's the scheduled time okay?」
Lisa nodded in exasperation. She entered the nearby game shop with Firill.
「Waaah, there are a lot of strange looking games! Perhaps even a shitty game might be fun if we are playing it with everyone.」
Firill's eyes sparkled when she peered at the wagon where the retro games were placed.
Lisa also stared at the shelves while paying attention to time.
「I want you to please stop with the horror game if possible.」
Lisa who wasn't good with psychologically scary game said that to Firill.
「Then, what kind of game Lisa think is good?」
「Let's see……ah, this looks interesting.」
Firill made a dubious expression seeing the video game that Lisa picked up.
「That's a zombie shooting game you know? Aren't you scared?」
「No. Because it's not a ghost if it die when you shoot it with gun.」
「I think they are similar though……」
Firill tilted her head while putting that game into her basket.
「Then what about this? It's a detective game, where you will get killed by the mysterious culprit if you guess wrong.」
「Uu……that kind of setting where you don't really know who is the enemy is a bit……I'm fine if you can fight the attacking culprit though……」
「The game's genre is different if the main character is a physical type like that.」
Firill shrugged and returned that game to the shelves.
「Firill-san, don't you have any game that you aren't good with?」
「Me? Not really. Ah……but, there might be a genre that I'm somewhat avoiding.」
「A genre you're avoiding?」
Lisa tilted her head. Firill pulled her hand and led her to different shelves.
「This is, a romance game that is oriented for woman……」

Lisa muttered as she stared at the packaging where handsome male characters were lined up.
「Yep. I think something like this is absolutely interesting, and I’ll get hooked in if I ever try it but……all this time I’m always stopping myself from trying it.」
「Why?」
「Because……I want to have my first love in reality.」
Firill answered shyly with blushing cheeks.
「So even Firill-san──still have an unsullied part remaining inside yourself.」
Lisa muttered in admiration. Firill looked slightly angry to that.
「Ah, you’re horrible Lisa……you are seeing me as someone like that? Even though I’m a princess despite appearance……」
「Then please pay a bit more attention in how you act and speak normally.」
Lisa said with a wry smile, but her gaze stopped on a game that was placed in a shelve beside her.
「──Is this also a game for woman? But all the characters seem to be girls though……」
「Ah, that’s the so called yuri game.」
「Yuri?」
「A game of romance between girls. I heard that it’s unexpectedly also popular among men.」
Lisa’s face was dyed red after Firill explained.
「R-romance between girls, such thing……」
Firill grinned seeing her reaction.
「Fufu, want to try buying it if you’re interested?」
「N-no need!」
「Don’t say something like that, we are already here so let’s try playing it together next time.」
Firill put the game into her basket and hugged Lisa’s arm.
「I refuse!」
Lisa hurriedly returned the game back to the shelve, then she hurriedly headed to the cashier with a rapid pace.
「Come on, it’s already time. Finish the bill quickly so we can head to the meeting place.」
Lisa hurried Firill on.
「……I want to try playing it together.」
Firill muttered in disappointment, even so she followed behind Lisa with a smile.
After that──because it took a bit of time to take care the procedure for the shipping, the two of them returned a bit late.
◆ Brunhilde Gamers 6
At the weekend night──the girls who belonged to Brunhilde class gathered in Lisa’s room.
It was becoming a custom for them to play the games that Firill brought there.

「Then today is the horror game that I have saved for──」
「I'm going to sleep now.」
Lisa swiftly stood up before Firill could finish speaking.
Lisa then went to crawl under her blanket, but Firill hurriedly clung on her leg.
「Wait Lisa. Listen to me first. This game isn't just scary but also emotionally touching──」
「No matter how touching it is, it's the same if it's scary! You know that I'm not good with this kind of thing!」
Lisa spoke without any composure, but then she came back to her senses and looked around at her classmates that gathered inside her room.
Mitsuki, Iris, Tia, Ariella, and Ren were watching Lisa's lack of composure curiously.
「Ah, no, that……I'm not good with this kind of game not because it's scary, I simply dislike horror because it's simply stupid……」
Lisa made excuse in embarrassment, but Iris nodded in sympathy with her.
「It's alright Lisa-chan. I'm also not good with scary thing.」
「Nn……」
Ren also nodded up and down in agreement with Iris.
「I'm not particularly weak against horror but……it's not a genre that I'll choose when there is other choice.」
Mitsuki glanced at the horror game's packaging while bluffing slightly.
「The game look scary……」
Tia was anxiously clutching Lisa's clothes.
「I love this kind of thing, but if there are these many people scared of it, it might be better to play another game.」
Ariella said so with a wry smile, but Firill obstinately shook her head.
「No, we'll play this today! I'll also use my trump card if all of you are still scared and don't want to play it no matter what.」
「Trump card?」
Lisa looked at Firill doubtfully.
「You see, I read in a book before this, about a way to make scary game not scary.」
「Hee, what kind of way is it?」
That caught Ariella's interest and she asked.
「Put a strange name on the main character.」
「Eh……that's all?」
Iris's jaw dropped while she tilted her head.
「Yes, that's all. But with that all the scenes of the really scary game will become comedy.」
Firill said that while turning on the game. She then progressed from the terrifying opening screen to the name input screen.
「A strange name……but it's difficult to think of one even if Firill suddenly say that.」
「Nn」

Tia and Ren thought hard with a frown.
「For example……what about Pyon Pyon Tarou, something like that?」
Iris gave a suggestion.
「Nope nope, something like that will lose against the scariness. It need to be more, we need a name that sounds funny with just that alone.」
Firill folded her arms and deliberated deeply.
「That's right━━let's make it "Mononobe-kun who needs to go to toilet"!」
「Wait, why are you bringing up Nii-san's name there!」
Mitsuki instantly retorted, but Firill paid her no mind and inputted the name.
「Because, the main character is male. Ah……there is number of characters limitation……err, if we have to shorten it then I guess it will be something like "Yuu who needs to go to toilet". Mitsuki is also a Mononobe after all━━」
「Aa, Nii-san is going through another pitiful experience……」
Mitsuki let out a heavy sigh.
And like that the game started. The story was of the main character who got lost into an old western mansion and investigating the inside of the mansion. It was an adventure type horror game.
When an event occurred, the situation and the character's mental state were described with text but━━.
「Look Mononobe-kun who needs to go to toilet came to the mansion.」
Firill showed the opening scene and said.
「Surely he came there to borrow their toilet.」
「Nn.」
Ren chuckled at Ariella's murmur.
「Somehow, it sounds stupid when you say it like that. It look less scarier……」
Lisa who averted her gaze turned toward the television.
Firill continued controlling the main character and began investigating inside the mansion.
「There is no toilet anywhere.」
「Yuu is pitiful.」
Iris and Tia watched the main character wandering inside the mansion while speaking in sympathy.
Suddenly, ghost appeared from the wall at that timing.
「Kyaah!?」
As expected, everyone screamed but━━even their fear was dispersed when they saw the displayed text.
「What appeared in front of Yuu who needs to go to toilet is a transparent woman body━━」
「I wonder if Mononobe peed himself.」
「N-Nii-san will never commit such blunder!」
Mitsuki's face reddened and she yelled at Iris's murmur.
「Somehow, even the main character's trembling also look like because he is needing to go to toilet.」

Ariella muttered with a wry smile.
Even after that there were multiple scary scenes but, everyone’s focus was moving toward the state of the main character rather than the psychic phenomenon.
「There is no toilet anywhere……」
「This mansion has a serious structural flaw. It’s only natural that it ended up as an empty house like this.」
Tia and Lisa retorted about the mansion’s structure.
「The ghosts look like they are saying a lot of things, but Mononobe definitely isn’t listening.」
「Yep, surely his mind is fully occupied with finding toilet.」
Even when it was a scene where the ghosts were talking, Iris and Firill were worried for the main character instead.
Like that the story progressed smoothly and they arrived until the phase where the mansion’s ghosts were purified but──.
「I messed up……」
Firill muttered as she watched the ghosts turning into sparkling lights and vanished.
「Eh? But, the game is cleared with this you know?」
Iris tilted her head in puzzlement.
「The story doesn’t enter my head at all, and when I imagine that Mononobe-kun is still holding back from peeing even now, I can’t feel moved at all.」
「Certainly, that’s true. I hope he won’t get inflammation in his bladder.」
Lisa agreed with Firill and smiled wryly. And then the last words that the ghost left behind were displayed in the screen.
「Yuu who needs to go to toilet……thank you.」
A conflicted feeling spread through everyone.
「Even the ghost, know that the main character need to go to toilet……」
「But they still chased him around even knowing that……they are real sadists.」
Ariella and Firill sighed in exasperation.
「Nii-san……you have gone through a horrible experience. But, you manage to protect your dignity as human till the very end──splendid. As expected from my Nii-san!」
Mitsuki was moved by something else. Her eyes were teary.
Like this, ”Yuu who needs to go to toilet” left the mansion that didn’t have any toilet in it──.
◆ Amethyst Rebirth Side Story 1
「Uuu……what to do, what to do……」
It was in the villa deep in the mountains where everyone of Brunhilde class came together to. Iris Freya who had sweated in the tennis court there was staring fixedly at her tennis wear while only in her underwear.
「Iris-san, what’s the matter?」
Lisa Highwalker who was changing clothes together with her in the changing room asked Iris with a puzzled look.

「Y-you see, Lisa-chan, this tennis wear……as expected, it’s better if I wash it don’t you think?」
「That’s, well──we are borrowing this from here, so I think it’s only courteous to wash it before returning it. Let’s leave it in the laundry room and wash it together with other clothes tomorrow.」
Lisa tidily folded her own tennis wear as she answered like that.
「B-but, Mononobe might lick it all over before it get washed! Perhaps, no surely it smells sweat……perhaps, it’ll be better to wash it right away by myself……」
「……Just, what in the world are you talking about?」
Lisa stared still at Iris.
「Eh? That’s why I’m saying Mononobe might lick……」
「He has that kind of fetish?」
「F-fetish? I, I don’t know but, man is that kind of creature right?」
「I-I’ll be troubled if you ask me something like that. Or rather──I have been wondering this since a long time ago, but where did Iris-san’s biased knowledge came from?」
Lisa sighed and asked Iris.
「From where you asked……it’s in the books that I borrowed from Firill-chan you know?」
「As I thought……」
Lisa pressed her forehead and shook her head in exasperation.
「Eh? Could it be, what is written in Firill-chan’s book is wrong?」
「No, I can’t say that they are completely wrong but……something like licking clothes, I think only a very limited number of men has that kind of hobby.」
「Is that so……」
Iris looked impressed. Lisa nodded to her with an expression that was full of confidence.
「According to the book that I read, a man isn’t a creature that like to lick clothes, but instead they like to sniff it all over.」
「So it’s sniffing!」
「Yes. That’s why we have to pay attention to our scent. Let’s spray deodorant to the clothes we take off before leaving them in the laundry room. If we do that then Mononobe Yuu shouldn’t be tempted to do perverted act.」
「As expected from Lisa-chan! It’s no good if Mononobe turn perverted isn’t it!」
Iris’s gaze was filled with respect. Lisa puffed out her chest and declared that her preparation was flawless.
The two of brought their tennis wear to the laundry room happily.
But the next day──when Firill heard this story, she would burst into a laughter with unprecedented loudness. At this time the two of them still weren’t aware of that.

◆ Amethyst Rebirth Side Story 2

「──Hey, Jeanne-chan. There is this one thing in my mind.」
Kili Surt Muspelheim was lying face up on the sofa while talking to Jeanne Hortensia who came out from the bathroom.
「What?」
Jeanne dried her head with a towel while turning toward Kili.
「I’m amazed you could pretend to be a man with large breasts like that.」
「W-where are you looking at!?」



Jeanne who defenselessly exposed her naked body turned red and hid her chest.
「Your beautiful body. It’s really feminine and lovely.」
「……Tsu! Y-you’re insulting me!」
Jeanne’s expression turned severe, but Kili shrugged with a wry smile.
「No, that’s not my intention. I’m simply amazed. Because the way you look now is really different from how you normally look.」
Kili stared scrutinizingly at Jeanne’s body while still lying down.
「Did you wrap your chest or something? It’s bad for your body if you press your chest too much, and their proportion might also crumble.」
「That’s none of your business. Certainly I’m pressing my chest to a certain degree but, I’m not forcing it. I’m using a protector placed inside the clothes to make my body look a size larger with manly physique, so my chest also doesn’t look conspicuous with that.」
Kili looked impressed hearing that explanation. She muttered.
「Hee……so you aren’t hiding what is there, but adding what you lack to camouflage it between them. That’s amazing Jeanne-chan. You are working hard.」
「It feels like you’re making fun of me……」
Jeanne puffed her cheeks in discontent.
「I’m praising you from the bottom of my heart. But, if you want to become a man to such degree, how about I use biological conversion to turn you into real man? Well, I never tried it before, so I might fail.」
Kili offered like that with a joking tone.
「I’ll refrain. I don’t want to die as your guinea pig after all. Or rather──I just don’t want captain to find out that I’m a woman, it’s not like I want to become a man.」
「Fufu……that’s good. After all I also like the current cute Jeanne-chan better.」
Kili patted down her chest in exaggerated relieve when she heard Jeanne’s reply.
「D-don’t make fun of me! I’ll shoot you!」
Jeanne took the gun that she placed on the sideboard beside the bed and warned Kili with bright red face.
「I’m not making fun of you. That side of yours is really cute.」
Kili chuckled without showing any fear, then she closed her eyes.
「Then, I’m going to sleep. Rest well, Jeanne-chan.」
「……Don’t sleep on the sofa. Sleep properly on the bed. You’re going to catch cold.」
「Then……carry me there Jeanne-chan.」

「Don’t screw with me, I’ll kick you off from there.」
The two exchanged such conversation while the night was growing late.
◆ Prismatic Garden Side Story 1
Midgard’s headmaster, Charlotte B Lord suggested a firework display and led the staffs to hold it.
All the students were provided with yukata that Charlotte personally selected with great care.
That was exactly why━━she had to confirm that “fruit of labor” no matter what.
「Haa……haa……haa……」
Behind the stands that lined up along the seafront street. Rough breathing sound was echoing inside the thick jungle. However that sound was lost amidst the refined festival music that was played as BGM of the event. The girls in yukata who passed through the street didn’t notice it at all.
「Fu, fufufu……as expected from my selection. All the maidens looked exactly like in my imagination……beautiful……perfect. I have to record their figure with the best shot no matter what.」
Charlotte who was concealing herself in a bush muttered while tightly clutching her camera.
She was wearing camouflage helmet and uniform. The way she looked, even calling her a battlefield cameraman wouldn’t be out of place at all.
She paid no attention to her blonde hair that stuck on her forehead from sweat and aimed for shutter chances from the cover of trees.
「Fumu, as I thought flower pattern really suit that maiden……mumuh, that maiden’s nape is really sexyyy……oo━━even her gallant side profile as she play the shooting game is wonderful……」
The shutter clicked each time the eye drawing moment arrived. There wasn’t any time to rest at all. After all she had to take the yukata picture of everyone while the festival was still ongoing.
But━━.
「Muu……she just won’t face this way. Over here, over here……oh━━she finally turn over here. That’s right, just like that, look my way……hm?」
Her gaze met the black haired girl’s gaze through the lens.
She was a beautiful maiden that possessed both loveliness and dignity. The student council president of the academy━━Mononobe Mitsuki.
Her yukata also suited her very much, but Charlotte had no leeway to press the shutter. Seeing her forming her bow shaped fictitious armament and nocking the arrow, Charlotte switched gear to run away.
Hyuu━━.
But silver arrow stabbed at the ground under Charlotte’s feet to stop her.
「Habuh!?」
Charlotte was startled and tumbled down. Mononobe Mitsuki then appeared before her.

「I patrolled because some students reported hearing about suspicious shutter sound and what seems to be a suspicious silhouette but……as expected it's you headmaster.」
「N-no, this is, I'm only taking photo for documenting the event, that's all──」
「Then it should be fine if headmaster openly walk around taking picture. You must be taking pictures that can only be taken by secretly sneaking around right?」
「Uu……」
Charlotte couldn't argue back to that. She was at a loss for words.
「Good grief……even though I have an important promise with Nii-san today, please don't make me waste my time. Now, we are going to where Mica-san is.」
「W-wait! All the photos I took will get erased if Mica learn of this!」
「That's your just dessert.」
「I-I also have my friend's──your big brother's photos here!」
Those words made Mitsuki who was mercilessly dragging Charlotte away to stop moving.
「This is when he cooked in the stand……this is when he was scooping goldfish……all of them are a frame of precious youth isn't it? Do you think it's alright for this moment to be lost forever?」
Charlotte displayed the picture data of Mononobe Yuu that she took in the camera's monitor in her attempt to persuade Mitsuki.
「T-that's──」
「I shall print out all the photos of my friend and gift them to you. That's why overlook me here!」
Charlotte abandoned her pride and begged with a dogeza. Mitsuki sighed deeply in defeat.
「I'll check the photos. I'll erase any photo that looks like it will make the person in it refuse to have such photo taken. And then if from here on headmaster take the photo openly without hiding……well, I guess I can overlook this just for this one time……」
Mitsuki averted her gaze and offered a compromise.
「Of course I don't mind that! I'm in your debt──you are a reasonable maiden!」
「P-please don't cling on my foot!」
Charlotte expressed her gratitude with her whole body. Mononobe Mitsuki pushed her away while sighing.
There was nobody else than them who knew that such backroom deal happened behind the scene of the festival.
◆ Prismatic Garden Side Story 2
It was a scene that happened in the firework display that was held in Midgard.
「Shinomiya-sensei, can I ask you one thing?」
Iris Freya who was helping with the yakisoba stand talked to her homeroom teacher Shinomiya Haruka.

「Yeah, I don’t mind.」
Haruka cooked yakisoba on top of a hot iron plate while nodding back at Iris.
「Then, umm……I think Shinomiya-sensei once said that you aren’t good with cooking……did you say that just to be humble?」
Iris who was in charge of taking the order from the customers and receiving payment hesitantly asked Haruka who was cooking yakisoba skillfully.
「No, it wasn’t me being humble but simply the truth. I’m mostly unable to cook.」
「Even though you can make yakisoba that skillfully……?」
「Yakisoba is the only thing that I can make. My father was also like that.」
「Your father?」
Iris tilted her head in puzzlement. Haruka smiled to her and nodded.
「Yeah, my father normally never cooked, but it was only when our family went for barbeque that he would grill the meat and yakisoba himself. This is Shinomiya style──he declared that.」
「Fufu, he is the same like Shinomiya-sensei!」
「……Do I also look like I’m boasting like that?」
Iris nodded at Haruka’s question.
「Yep, very much so! Shinomiya-sensei is similar with your father huh.」
Haruka scratched her cheek shyly when Iris confirmed it so clearly like that.
「──That might be. In that sense my little sister……Miyako was similar with my mother I guess. Unlike me, I think that she was really good in making various cooking. Well, but I’m better than her when it comes to yakisoba though.」
Haruka declared that was the only thing that she wouldn’t yield in. Iris smiled happily seeing that.
「Certainly……I don’t think I can imagine a yakisoba that is more delicious than this.」
Iris picked a strand of noodle that almost fell from the edge of the iron plate and put it into her mouth. Her expression loosened up from the taste.
「That’s a bad manner, Iris Freya.」
「Ahaha……I’m sorry.」
Iris scratched her head and apologized. Haruka smiled wryly seeing that and said 「You’re hopeless」.
◆ Prismatic Garden Side Story 3
At the firework display that was held in Midgard.
A lot of female students sat down side by side at the breakwater along the coast. They were watching the flowers of fire blooming in the sky.
「Waaah, so pretty!」
Tia cheered happily. Kili who sat at her right side frowned.
「If something like that is good, I can also show you the same thing as much as you want you know? After all material conversion to flame is my specialty.」

However before Tia could reply to that, Lisa who sat on her opposite side interrupted.
「──No matter how good you are with explosion, I don’t think that you will be able to bring about a refined display like that. Simply being flashy won’t be able to move people’s emotion you know?」
Kili’s cheeks twitched. Liza and her glared at each other with Tia between them.
「What’s with you……are you picking a fight with me?」
「No, I’m simply correcting Kili-san’s conceit. In order to create a beautiful firework, the artisan has to be extremely fussy with the gunpowder’s type, mixing ratio, arrangement, and amount. Even if Kili-san make use of your material conversion ability, this isn’t something that can be reproduced in just a single night. In addition your aesthetical sense will naturally be questioned too.」
「……I hope that you aren’t looking down on me like that. Something like firework is simple compared to biological conversion. The quality of my brain is different from all of you. Even my aesthetical sense is also beyond compare.」
Kili declared confidently, but Lisa was looking at her with a pitying gaze. Tia was also looking at Kili while making an expression as though she had heard something strange.
「W-what……even Tia is looking at me like that……I’m not saying anything strange you know?」
Kili asked the two of them with a perplexed feeling.
「Kili-san, you……have you forgotten what kind of picture you drew in the art class the other day?」
「The art class──I believe that all the pictures I drew there were wonderfully done though……」
「Certainly I felt the height of your ability when it come to realistic drawing like portrait or rough sketch. But, when it was time for freely drawing based on a decided theme, your drawing……」
Lisa hesitated to continue at that point, but Tia continued it without any reservation.
「Kili’s drawing, it was bizarre!」
「B-bizarre?」
Kili stiffened in shock.
「It was like, sloppy──Tia’s drawing was faaaar better!」
「T-that was an artistic work that expressed rage and despair through the coloring……」
Kili started to explain in agitation, but Tia dealt the finishing blow with an innocent smile.
「Kili doesn’t need to feel down no matter how bad you are with that. Tia will teach Kili the proper way of drawing as your senior in the academy!」
Kili dropped her shoulders despondently. Lisa spoke to her in sympathy.

「If you want to create a firework, I think it'll be better if you copy an existing firework.」
「……E-everyone else is just unable to understand because my sense is too advanced.」
「Even if that's the case, it's meaningless if it's not conveyed to Tia-san correct?」
「Uu……」
Kili was at a loss for words there. Her gaze returned to the firework in the night sky with a sullen expression.
──The explosion's power, range, direction……until now I only paid attention to the practical aspects but, from now on I'll also pay attention to my technique's artistry and appearance. That's right, I'll also need to think hard for a good technique name to express it……perhaps I should adopt Iris-chan's method with chanting.
Kili resolved herself like that in her heart, but at this time she still didn't know that this would become the impetus for her to fall further into the wrong path.
◆ Brunhilde Gamers 7
Late at night, a message was sent to the members of Brunhilde class to gather──that was the signal for the girls only game meeting that was organized by Firill.
「Good grief……what are we going to do today?」
Mitsuki who was called like usual looked around to the people who gathered inside the room.
The members were fewer than usual, perhaps because it was already late at night. There were only Firill, Lisa, and Iris. The others most likely had gone to sleep already.
Of course her brother Mononobe Yuu also wasn't here. He was called only when the game meet was held at noon. At night the meeting also doubled as pajama party so boy was forbidden to come.
Right now the space here should also be called as a secret flower garden but──the cardboard boxes that were put at the middle of the room smashed that atmosphere completely.
「Welcome Mitsuki. Of course we will also play game today.」
Firill welcomed Mitsuki and said that with a bold smile.
「Game……with, these cardboard boxes?」
Mitsuki stared at the cardboard boxes with suspicion. Firill nodded deeply at her.
「Yep, but of course we will use the "content" of these. These boxes are filled with twelve sets of trading card game's boxes that I ordered from Japan.」
Lisa yawned sleepily at the side when she heard that.
「Fuwa……in other words we are going to play card game tonight then. Then let's start it quickly. What is the rule of the game?」
「Lisa, don't rush like that. First we start from opening the boxes.」

Firill waved her finger while going *tsk tsk tsk.* She opened one of the cardboard boxes. Then she took out a smaller box from inside. The box had the drawing of characters and monsters on it. It was decorated with sparkling and flashy decoration.
「Waa, it's pretty! This girl is cute!」
Iris leaned forward and took a box.
「Each box is filled with twenty packs where each pack contain eight cards. Let's distribute them among everyone tonight and open the packs one by one.」
Firill said that and lifted her hand high. However the other members looked taken aback.
Mitsuki looked alternately to the boxes that were filled with card packs and Firill. She opened her mouth hesitantly.
「Don't tell me……tonight──we are just going to open the boxes?」
「That's right.」
Firill answered calmly. This time it was Lisa who questioned her.
「Firill-san! That's not a game, it's just a work!」
However Firill shrugged slightly and smiled with implication.
「Geez, you don't get it all Lisa. For trading card, the moment you open the pack and check the inside is the most thrilling moment where your blood seethe and your flesh dance in excitement you know?」
「……What do you mean?」
「In other words, it depends on your luck whether you will get good card or not inside the pack. I want everyone to taste that thrill. After that we will use the cards from the pack we opened ourselves to form a deck and duel each other next time, so you have to seriously do this part you know?」
Firill forced her opinion, but Iris tilted her head in puzzlement.
「Doing it seriously……even though we are just opening boxes?」
「Of course. You won't be able to draw luck toward yourself if you don't seriously pray. Enough about that, for now let's all of us try opening a pack. A shining card means it's a jackpot.」
Urged by Firill, Mitsuki and others reluctantly started opening the packs.
「I don't really understand the card's number and marking, but the illustration is pretty.」
Mitsuki took out a card and stared at it while muttering. Then beside her a cheer burst out from Iris.
「Ah──this looks amazing! It's sparkling! Like a rainbow!」
Firill gulped when Iris lifted up that card.
「T-that's an LSSR (Legend SS Rare) card──even though I heard that there is only one of that per one hundred boxes……」
From behind the trembling Firill, Lisa peered at Iris's card with deep interest.
「Certainly……the card has this atmosphere that feels amazing. I think…… I'm feeling jealous, a little.」
After muttering that, lisa started to open the boxes silently.

「Uu……to be honest, I’m also feeling vexed. This is the strength of someone who take up the challenge without desire……no, an earnest prayer should draw an even better result to me, absolutely──」
Firill muttered dejectedly and opened a pack with trembling hand.
「Even though it only depend on luck what kind of card we can pull, this is still turning into a competition……」
Mitsuki also continued her work with anxious expression.
And then──when each person had finished checking the content of three boxes that contained 480 cards, the room was filled with a heavy atmosphere.
「U-umm……why are you all glaring at me?」
Iris who was holding several cards that were shining sublimely in her hands looked around at everyone in puzzlement.
「……It’s unfair, that it’s only Iris-san.」
Lisa muttered with a sulking tone. Firill was hanging her head down with an expression of despair.
「Nothing……nothing……came out. Nothing……」
Mitsuki watched the three people who were in contrast to each other. She placed her cards on the floor and talked to them.
「Let’s breakup for today. To be honest, I’m tired.」
「……Yeah, let’s do that. To be honest my objective this time is to distribute these trading cards to everyone and increase the number of my comrades but……many cards that I wanted got away from me……my willpower is zero now.」
Firill said that and walked to her bed unsteadily. And then her body flopped down powerlessly.
「U-umm, Firill-chan……if you want them then, these……take them. In the first place it was Firill-chan who bought them……」
Iris awkwardly placed the cards beside Firill’s pillow.
「……Thank you. You’re really kind Iris. The rare cards are……dazzling.」
Firill’s eyes narrowed from the cards’ radiance. Then she ran out of strength and fell asleep.
「I don’t really get it but, it looks like it will be better if we don’t do the duel in this current situation.」
Mitsuki sighed and began to tidy up the cardboard boxes and the opened packs.
「I also want those pretty cards……」
Lisa helped her out while muttering to herself.
After that, naturally the card duel wasn’t held but──Lisa secretly began to collect the cards and Firill succeeded in obtaining the comrade that she dearly wished for.
◆ Brunhilde Gamers EX
「Everyone──I have something reaally important to talk about today. Listen carefully.」

In the girl dormitory of Midgard Academy. After it was lights-out time, all of Brunhilde class's girls secretly gathered in Lisa Highwalker's room.
The girls were sitting on the beds or floor wearing their pajama. They were looking up at Firill Crest who was standing in front of the television.
「Firill, we aren't going to play game like usual today?」
The girl with two horns growing on her head, Tia Lightning tilted her head with a puzzled look.
It was becoming a custom for them to play game together when they gathered in Lisa's room at night.
「You can say that we are going to play game, but you can also say we aren't……I think.」
「What do you mean?」
「I'll explain it from now. The game I choose this time is……this. A game where you can create something like RPG.」
Firill held up the game that she was hiding behind her back.
「Making a game with a game?」
Lisa frowned and asked.
「Yes. A lot of materials are inserted into this game……if you use them, you can create a game relatively easily. If needed, it's also possible to create the material from zero.」
「Hee, that sounds interesting. Then we can create what we are imagining?」
Ariella Lu got her interest drawn and leaned forward.
「Yep. There is limit to it, but you can also fiddle with the script so the degree of freedom here is high. For that I'm planning to rely on Ren.」
「Nn. Leave it to me.」
It seemed that she had been told beforehand. Ren Miyazawa clapped her chest.
「Ren-chan is enthusiastic. But……I might not be good with this. Somehow it sounds complicated.」
Iris Freya smiled wryly and scratched her cheek.
「It's fine. Tonight I'll cram the basic fully into everyone.」
Firill grinned boldly. Mononobe Mitsuki who had been staying quiet all this time opened her mouth when she heard that.
「By that you mean……that it won't end with just today?」
「Of course, naturally. Creating game is something that takes time. This is a grand project.」
Firill clenched her fist and declared.
「You are exaggerating even though we are just playing around to make it……」
Mitsuki sighed in exasperation, but Firill shook her head with a serious expression.
「Wrong. We won't just create it. It's a game, so it will have to be played properly.」
「Eh?」
Mitsuki was perplexed. Firill quietly held out the game's packaging.

「This is the PC version. It can be installed in each person’s computer and everyone can make the game on their own. It’s also possible to distribute the game that you created. I’m planning to have the people of other classes to play the completed game.」
「Eeh!?」
Not only Mitsuki, everyone else also raised their voices in surprise.
「That’s why, don’t cut corner. Also, it will be no good if it’s not something that can draw everyone’s interest and they can enjoy playing.」
「T-the hurdle is suddenly raised really high……」
Lisa muttered with a twitching expression.
「Right now for the game’s content, I’m planning to have everyone making a part individually, and then at the end we will combine all of them. But……it will be no good if the contents are all over the place, so the scenario on the whole and the main character will be uniform.」
「Main character……?」
Mitsuki frowned as though she was feeling some kind of bad premonition.
「Yep, please make the main character Mononobe-kun okay?」
「Wait, why is it Nii-san!?」
Mitsuki instantly retorted.
「Because……I can only think of Mononobe-kun when it’s about something that all girls in Midgard are commonly interested in. Besides……surely it will be more interesting like that.」
「That’s why I keep saying, please don’t treat Nii-san like a toy!」
Mitsuki complained, but Firill was unwavering.
「This is different from usual. Until now we only played while giving Mononobe-kun’s name to the main character. But, if we are making the game ourselves, we can do anything we want with Mononobe-kun as we please.」
「A-anything we want, with Nii-san……?」
Mitsuki gulped and turned red.
「D-doing as we please, to Mononobe Yuu……?」
Lisa raised a hoarse voice. Everyone else also turned red and fell silent.
Firill saw that and spoke.
「I’m glad everyone is getting interested. Then, from now on it’s project start. The title is “Mononobe Quest”!」
Firill thrust up her arm and declared.
「Wai-, please wait! I’m also Mononobe though!」
Mitsuki returned to her senses and objected with the title.
But in the end, it was Firill’s suggestion that was adopted due to the reason that the title sounded good like that.
*
Like that a game creation by all the girls of Brunhilde class started.
In the first meeting they received the basic lecture of game making. In the second meeting they held a scenario discussion.

「Then──it’s decided that the basic flow is the main character Mononobe-kun conquering the seven stages that we created.」
Firill put together everyone’s opinions and decided the course of action.
「With that we can also create a game with some freedom.」
「Tia will make an amazing stage!」
Lisa and Tia nodded in satisfaction. However Firill raised her hand with a strict expression.
「Wait, it’s still too early to feel happy. Our game is still lacking the most essential part.」
「Essential part? What can it be?」
「Nnu?」
Ariella and Ren tilted their head with a puzzled look.
「That is the elements to make the player enjoy playing the game. The player controlling Mononobe-kun to clear some stages created by amateurs……do you think such game is really interesting? Will your motivation to continue playing last till the end?」
「Y-you are hitting where it hurt Firill-san. I completely thought that you would ignore that part……」
Mitsuki spoke in surprise. To that Firill puffed out her chest while snorting *ehem* proudly.
「Naturally. I won’t compromise. That’s why I……have thought a lot.」
Firill took out a memo book from her pocket and continued talking.
「First, the one playing this game will be people interested to Mononobe-kun. That’s why if they can obtain information regarding Mononobe-kun through playing the game, that will be enough of a “reward” to clear the game.」
「Reward, is it?」
Firill nodded heavily at Mitsuki’s question.
「Yes……the setting is Mononobe-kun going on a journey to regain his memory that is stolen by the demon king. He will recall his memory each time he clear a stage. Any kind of memory is fine but……if possible, it will be nice if it’s a treasured secret that is only known by the person creating the stage I think.」
「Treasured, secret……」
For some reason Iris blushed and started fidgeting.
「If it’s like that, then everyone will get motivated to clear the game no matter what……right?」
Firill looked around at everyone to confirm it.
「C-certainly, that might be true but……I, don’t really know any secret of him you know?」
「I wonder if that’s really true. Lisa, you are always watching Mononobe-kun, so I think you should at least know one or two things.」
Firill tilted her head and asked Lisa back.
「W-what are you saying! I never do something like watching him or anything!」

Lisa denied with a bright red face.
「Hmmm……well, I'll leave it at that. If you don't know any secret, then things like his favorite food……even trivial information is fine.」
Ariella sighed in relieve hearing that.
「In that case, then even me might be able to manage somehow.」
「Nn.」
Ren also nodded in agreement.
「It will be happy end if all the stages are cleared?」
Firill returned a suggestive smile at Iris's question.
「Fufu, the ending will be sloppy like that. That's why my stage will be set so you can't challenge it unless you have conquered all the other six stages. And then after the player clear that, they will learn Mononobe-kun's secret that has been weighing everyone's mind.」
「Eeh!? What is this secret of Mononobe-kun that is weighing everyone's mind!?」
「……Look forward to it for later.」
Firill said while putting her index finger in front of her lips.
「Consult Ren or me if you have things you don't understand, like if the gimmick is difficult, or you need to adjust the balance. The main character's state will be resetted after each stage, so you only need to consider the balance within your own stage.」
Firill informed everyone about what was required matter-of-factly. She then looked over everyone.
「Then let's quickly start working now!」
「……oo」
When Ren lifted up her fist and responded with a small voice, everyone looked at each other and also imitated her.
「O, ooo!」
Like that the girls threw themselves into the actual work of making game.
*
「──Somehow, it has taken shape at the very least.」
A month later, everyone gathered in Lisa's room. Firill spoke while operating her tablet in front of them.
The tablet's screen was showing the data folders of the stages that each of them had created. Firill slotted in the datas that she received from everyone into the framework that had been created beforehand.
「I'm tireddd……or rather, it would be absolutely impossible without Ren-chan's help……」
Iris was lying down limply on the bed. She muttered sleepily.
「Iris-san was really helped a lot by Ren-san huh. Well……I too might have thrown in the towel if not for Ren-san. I have learned that I'm not suited for this kind of field.」
「This is the first time I'm relying on Ren so much like this. As expected from Ren.」
Ren looked down shyly after Lisa and Ariella praised her.

「Nnu……it's because, I like this kind of thing.」
Ren answered with a small voice.
「I somehow managed to create my part alone but……I was surprised seeing Tia-san looked like she was having a really easy time creating hers.」
Mitsuki also made a slightly tired face while looking toward Tia. Tia was watching over Firill's work in excitement.
「It wasn't hard at all after Tia got used to it! Tia made a lot of interesting tricks, so Tia want everyone to see them too!」
Tia said so with energetic voice.
「Perhaps it's Tia who has the most fun this time. Her data size is also really big. Looks like we'll be able to count on her as an asset in the future.」
Firill patted Tia's head while continuing her work. Ren also nodded once behind her.
「Nn……immediate asset. Promising newcomer.」
「Tia is immediate asset!」
Tia cheered happily regardless whether she really knew the meaning of what they said or not.
「With this──yosh. It's at least playable now, so let's give it a test play together now.」
Firill connected her tablet with the television, then she also connected the controller and handed it to Lisa.
「Is it alright for me to be the player?」
「Yep. We should play it in turn with everyone playing the stage that is created by other people.」
Firill nodded while activating the game from her tablet. The game title was projected in a big way inside the television screen.
「Mononobe Quest……」
Mitsuki muttered in dislike. It seemed she was still discontent with the title.
「Then, I'll start.」
Lisa chose start and the monologue flowed into the screen. After it was explained that the hero Mononobe was journeying to regain his memory that was stolen by the demon king, the stage selection screen appeared.
「The six choices that are displayed right now are the names of the stages that everyone created. When all of them are cleared, the last stage I created will appear. You can start from any stage, so try selecting one.」
Urged by Firill, Lisa stared at the stage names.
「Then……I'll choose the one with RPG style name, Seven Crime Kingdom.」
「Ah, that's the stage that I created.」
Mitsuki reacted with a jerk and muttered.
「If it's Mitsuki-san's stage, then it feels like it will be something that is properly made.」
After the stage was selected, the screen turned black before a 2D map that was seen from above was displayed. The character and background were also displayed with pixels. It was an orthodox RPG display.

The main character Mononobe had the appearance of a hero wearing helmet and armor. He was standing in a place that seemed to be a castle town.
But flame illustration was placed everywhere in the map. There were also soldiers and monsters fighting.
「I-it’s suddenly a scene of carnage……」
Lisa was bewildered by the city’s situation.
There a soldier came and talked to Mononobe.
「The demon king’s army is attacking so lend us your help……the boss is heading to where the king and the princess are at……uh huh, I understand. In other words I just need to defeat the boss.」
Lisa understood what she should do and quickly controlled Mononobe to head to the castle.
「But, this city is big……I might get lost.」
「Ah, there is no need to worry about that.」
Lisa muttered to herself. Mitsuki made a clear assertion in respond.
「Eh?」
Lisa wondered about what she meant with a frown while choosing to go left when the path forked. But a soldier who was fighting nearby suddenly yelled to Mononobe 「Wrong, not that way! Go right!」.
「……The setting is really considerate.」
「I don’t want Nii-san to get lost after all.」
Mitsuki nodded while puffing her modest chest toward Lisa.
「Ah! A monster is heading this way now! It’s finally a battle scene!」
Lisa tensed when she saw monster approaching. However just before the monster reached Mononobe, a soldier leaped from the side. 「Leave this place to me and go ahead!」 the soldier urged. Lisa looked like she had the wind taken out of her sail.
「The soldiers of this country, are really capable……」
「Yes, because I can’t allow Nii-san to be injured.」
Mitsuki nodded as though she was only saying the obvious.
「…………」
Lisa seemed to feel the way the wind was blowing to a dubious direction. She silently looked around to the other classmates. Everyone seemed to be at a loss of how to comment and smiled wryly in exchange.
「W-well, there is the boss ahead, so let’s go to there for the time being.」
「You’re, right.」
Urged by Ariella, Lisa continued the game.
However even after she arrived in the castle, soldier would give her instruction when she lost the way, soldier would also come running when a monster approached──in the end she arrived in the throne room where the boss was at without going through battle even once.
「Lisa-san, listen properly to what the soldier in front of the room is saying okay?」
Mitsuki grabbed Lisa’s shoulder tightly and gave her instruction.

「Yes yes, I understand.」
Lisa’s motivation was already half gone. She sighed and talked to the soldier.
「The boss……is weak against water magic?」
「That’s right. Please remember it carefully! After all Nii-san’s life is depending on that.」
Mitsuki insisted with a serious expression.
And then Mononobe charged into the throne room. It was finally the battle against the boss.
「Lisa-san! The water magic, water magic! You mustn’t do anything else! Nii-san will get injured!」
「…………」
Lisa chose the water magic with a tired expression while Mitsuki was shaking her shoulders back and forth.
The boss died in one attack when it was hit by the water magic.
「You did it! It’s Nii-san’s victory!」
Mitsuki cheered happily, but everyone else including Lisa was sighing deeply.
「W-well……if you consider it a tutorial, the stage is good……maybe.」
Firill followed up with a slightly twitching expression.
「B-besides after this, Mononobe’s secret will be exposed right? If it’s Mitsuki-chan, she must know some amazing secrets, so I can’t wait!」
Iris raised her voice brightly to blow away the awkward atmosphere.
「Mitsuki is Mononobe-kun’s little sister after all. Just what kind of secret will come to light……」
「Yuu’s secret, Tia is looking forward to it!」
「Nn.」
Ariella, Tia, and Ren also followed Iris’s intention. Everyone stared at the screen with expectation.
After the boss was defeated, there was a monologue that showed how the main character regained his memory. The content of that memory was spoken from the main character’s mouth.
「I see……I, was left handed before I corrected it to be right handed.」
「…………」
Everyone stared silently at Mitsuki.
「──What is it? This too is a legitimate personal information. Something like what everyone is expecting will violate Nii-san’s privacy so I can’t expose it.」
Mitsuki declared so with a standoffish prim expression.
「Ee, that’s boring!」
「Wait Tia. This information might be good in its own way. If Mononobe-kun is formerly left handed, that means he is ambidextrous right now. Mononobe-kun is a technician who can use both hands skillfully……with just that the girls of other class will be able to imagine a lot of things, definitely.」

For some reason Firill said that with a strangely confident expression.
「F-Firill-san, that’s vulgar!」
Lisa warned her with blushing cheeks.
「Eh? I didn’t say anything particularly vulgar though. What did you imagine Lisa?」
But Firill questioned back. Lisa’s face turned even brighter red.
「Lisa’s face is really red. Why?」
Tia asked a question with a puzzled face.
「Tsu……i-it’s nothing at all! I’m not imagining anything at all! Enough about that, next is Firill-san’s turn to play!」
Lisa pushed the controller to Firill and withdraw to the back to run away.
「Fufu, then I guess I’ll give a look at what kind of stage is created by the very imaginative Lisa. I think it’s……this one isn’t it?」
Firill chose 「Highwalker Tower」 from the stage selection screen. Lisa who was flushed red until her ear from shame and anger immediately talked back to her.
「M-my imagination is normal! Well, I think that my stage is surely more interesting than Mitsuki-san though.」
「Eh!? Is my stage boring?」
Mitsuki looked shocked by Lisa’s words.
「Someone who think something like that is interesting must have something wrong with their head. When it come to Mononobe Yuu, the screws in Mitsuki-san’s head will immediately turn loose.」
「I was proud of that work though……」
Mitsuki’s shoulders dropped despondently. While they were having such conversation, Mononobe that Firill controlled appeared at the tower that Lisa created. A lot of adventurers collapsed in front of the entrance.
「……So the boss is at the highest floor of the tower. It feels like a dungeon that is faithful with the basic.」
Firill obtained information from the adventurers and moved Mononobe to start exploring the tower.
「I have played a lot of games with Firill-san until now after all. I believe that I have a firm grasp of how this kind of game should be.」
Lisa spoke confidently.
「I seee……ah, there is pithole here. Dodge, dodge. Hm……? This feels like a puzzle hint. Aa……the pattern is the same like that game.」
Firill smoothly solved the traps and puzzles that were put inside the tower.
「F-Firill-san……I created all of them with a lot of effort, so can’t you at least get a bit hindered by them?」
Lisa pleaded with a slightly sad face.
「Even if you tell me that……the gimmicks are all too cliché that it might be harder to feel troubled by them instead. The battle’s balance is also proper, and there is healing point set up in locations where I exactly need them……ah, here is the boss.」

「I can’t believe that you don’t get even one game over……it shouldn’t be Firill-san who play this stage. If it’s Iris-san, she would definitely get troubled just as expected in the places that I set up.」
Lisa hung her head down with a regretful expression.
「Eee, you are horrible Lisa-chan.」
Iris puffed out her cheeks when she heard Lisa’s muttering.
「No, Firill-san is correct in how optimally she is controlling Nii-san. I won’t be able to watch with how dangerous it will be if it’s Iris-san playing this stage.」
Mitsuki objected to Lisa’s opinion in a different meaning.
「Geez, even Mitsuki-chan……even I can control Mononobe skillfully!」
「Will you really……I’m worried.」
Mitsuki still looked anxious even after hearing Iris’s proclamation.
Firill defeated the tower’s boss while they were talking like that.
「……Yep, the difficulty level is just right.」
Firill nodded in satisfaction, but Lisa’s shoulders dropped despondently.
「I feel like I only understand now what is the point for a game to have difficulty level setting……」
Ariella smiled wryly at the disappointed Lisa.
「Now now, after this it will be finally time to disclose Mononobe-kun’s secret, so I’m having great expectation for that too.」
「Nn.」
Ren also nodded and stared at the screen.
「Yuu’s secret that Lisa know……somehow, it’s making Tia’s heart pounding.」
Tia leaned forward eagerly and her eyes chased the message window that was displayed in the screen.
「I see……I remember now. I have a cute sleeping face.」
「…………」
An indescribable atmosphere spread through everyone.
「This is, Yuu’s secret that Lisa know about?」
Tia tilted her head in puzzlement.
「A man who is self-aware that his own sleeping face is cute……that’s kind of disgusting.」
「Nnu……」
Ren agreed with Ariella’s murmur.
「T-this is the only thing that come to mind no matter how hard I thought, so it can’t be helped!」
Lisa made an excuse after seeing everyone’s reaction.
「Or rather, Lisa……how do you know that Mononobe-kun’s sleeping face is cute?」
Firill murmured her question. Lisa’s expression stiffened at that.
「T-that’s……like when we were on the move in an operation, he often took a nap at those times right?」

Lisa answered with a reddened face, but Firill narrowed her gaze and pressed on.
「Lies. Mononobe-kun’s face when sleeping at those times looked a bit scary. Lisa……confess. In what kind of situation did you see Mononobe-kun’s cute sleeping face?」
「I’m, also curious about that too.」
Even Mitsuki was staring at Lisa with a serious gaze.
「E-errr……I-I already forget when. M-more importantly, who is going to play the next stage?」
Lisa pretended to forget and forcefully changed the topic.
「Ah, Lisa-chan is avoiding the questionnn」
「I’m not avoiding anything! Come on Iris-san. Please show us that you can control Mononobe Yuu skillfully just as you claimed before this.」
Lisa pushed the controller at Iris who made such retort before she retreated to the bed.
「Ah, is it alright that I play next? Then which one I should chooseee」
Iris’s focus was turned toward the game with the controller in her hands. She began to ponder which stage to choose.
「……Lisa, tell me the full story slowly later okay?」
It seemed that Firill still hadn’t given up in pursuing the detail, but she turned back her focus to the screen because the game was the main topic right now.
「Lightning Attack……that sounds interesting! I’ll pick this one.」
「That’s Tia’s stage!」
Tia cheered.
The screen changed and showed the graphic of Mononobe riding a horse.
「Keep moving forward while defeating or dodging the enemies that attack from above! Your stamina will decrease if the enemy hit you, and it will be game over when the stamina gauge reach zero!」
Tia explained the stage’s rule to Iris.
Firill who was watching from the side muttered in admiration.
「Amazing……this is more like an action game or shooting game than an RPG. I’m amazed that you can create this much by yourself.」
「It’s not like Tia did anything complicated. Tia only combined some simple things together.」
Tia answered with a composed expression as though she hadn’t really done anything significant.
「Y-yosh, then here I go!」
Iris fired up herself and began to move Mononobe.
But the arrows and enemies that came from above hit the character and the stamina gauge was decreasing rapidly.
「Iris-san, please do it properly! Nii-san will be defeated at this rate!」
「Ueeee, even if you tell me that……this is harddd」
Iris raised her voice pathetically when Mitsuki scolded her.
「Your stamina will recover if you eat the dropped food.」

「I-is that so!?」
Iris followed Tia’s advice and directed Mononobe to the food item.
But even though his stamina recovered slightly from getting the food, he immediately received damage again.
「……Geez, I can’t leave Nii-san in Iris-san’s hand! I’ll do it!」
Mitsuki finally couldn’t just keep watching anymore and snatched Iris’s controller from the side.
「Eeeh!? No wayyy」
「I swear I’ll keep Nii-san alive no matter what!」
Mitsuki focused on the game. Iris’s complain didn’t even enter her ear.
Mononobe agilely dodged the enemies and quickly advanced forward.
「Mitsuki-chan, amazing……ah, there is recovery item there!」
「I won’t allow Nii-san to pick up a food that is dropped on the grund.」
Iris gave her advice, but Mitsuki intentionally ignored the recovery item.
「But there isn’t much stamina left, aren’t you putting the cart before the horse?」
「Nn」
Ariella and Ren cautioned Mitsuki, but she obstinately shook her head.
「It’s fine. It’s Nii-san after all.」
「That’s an incomprehensible reason……」
As expected, even Firill was exasperated and shrugged.
However Mitsuki reached the boss with her inherent concentration ability and skillfulness. She weaved through all the attacks and kept attacking like a surging wave. The boss was defeated before Mononobe that was under Mitsuki’s control.
「M-Mitsuki really win……」
Tia muttered in disbelief.
「Fu, fufu……did you see that, this is Nii-san’s power!」
「No, I think that’s Mitsuki’s strength though.」
Ariella retorted with a small voice, but the worked up Mitsuki didn’t listen at all.
「Then━━it’s now time to see the secret of Nii-san that Tia-san knows.」
Mitsuki read the line of Mononobe that regained his memory.
「I remember. So I……am Tia’s husband huh.」
「Ehehehee, it’s embarrassing. Tia and Yuu’s secret is exposed.」
Tia blushed and muttered shyly.
「Eeeh!! Tia-chan and Mononobe are already married!?」
Iris yelled in surprise.
「Iris-san……there is no way that’s the case. This isn’t a fact, so it can’t be called Nii-san’s secret. I demand Tia-san to do a retake with this part.」
But Mitsuki deeply sighed and demanded Tia to redo the scene.
「Why? This is the truth.」
「It’s not the truth.」
「T-that’s right! This isn’t the truth isn’t it! Then something like this shouldn’t be spread around!」

Iris also backed up Mitsuki.
「Uuuu, but……」
Ariella cut into the talk seeing Tia objecting.
「I can understand Tia's feeling, but don't you think that it's better to keep this a secret? Mononobe-kun will also get troubled if this matter suddenly become a rumor.」
「……Tia get it. If Yuu'll get troubled from this, Tia will pick another secret.」
Tia nodded reluctantly. Lisa and Firill sighed in relieve seeing the argument was peacefully settled somehow.
「Now then, I guess I'll give it a try next. Yosh──I'll pick this White Cave then.」
Ariella took the controller and spoke with a bright voice.
「Ah, it's finally my stage!」
Iris watched over Ariella with a bit of nervousness.
And then Ariella started playing but──.
She only passed through an ice cave and the stage was cleared. There wasn't any twist or mechanism set up through the cave.
「How should I say it, well, normally it will be like this.」
Ariella smiled wryly and patted iris's shoulder.
「The maker feeling satisfied just from connecting the components together. It's something common.」
Firill also patted Iris's shoulder from her opposite side.
「Eh? I'm getting consoled!? Is it really that bad!?」
「No, mine is also similar lie that, so I don't have any right to say anything but……well, I'm looking forward to the reward.」
Ariella spoke evasively with such vague words and continued the game event.
「I remember. I……have three moles lined up on my neck.」
「……It's, another tricky line.」
Firill put her hand over her mouth and groaned.
「Normally something like this can't be called a secret. And it's strange for the person himself to be aware of something like that. But, it's an info that can somehow make your heart skip a beat, so it can still be said as satisfying the demand of the players……」
「Firill-san, just what are you considering with such serious face……」
Lisa spoke to Firill in exasperation from the bed.
「I also know about the secret just now but……how did Iris-san notice Nii-san's moles? I believe that its location should be a bit hidden by the hair on the back of Nii-san's head though……」
Mitsuki asked in puzzlement. Iris scratched her cheek in embarrassment.
「I once slept together with Mononobe……it was then……」
「S-slept together!?」
Mitsuki squeaked. Everyone else also stared at Iris with reddening faces.

「Ah, i-it’s not in that kind of meaning! When Leviathan came attacking, I was anxious and asked him to stay with me, that’s all……Mononobe kept his back facing me the whole time!」
Iris made excuse in panic when she saw everyone’s reaction. She continued her explanation.
「And then……umm, I was looking at Mononobe’s back the whole time so……I noticed the moles.」
「Sleeping together, with Mononobe-kun……that’s nicee」
Firill let her impression slipped in a whisper. Everyone also returned from their dazed state to their senses.
「It’s unfair that it’s only Iris! Tia also want to sleep together with Yuu!」
「Eh? E-even if you tell me something like that……Tia-chan still wasn’t at Midgard at that time.」
Ariella sighed seeing Iris and Tia arguing with each other.
「Good grief……a secret that is more secretive than the moles came out but──as expected something like this can’t be put inside the game.」
「O-obviously! Doing something like that will create fait accompli──n-no, it will foster unrest for the public morals!」
Mitsuki asserted with a serious face.
Amidst such commotion, Ren picked the controller that was left on the floor and began playing the game.
「……Ariella’s stage, so easy.」
And then she easily cleared a stage.
「Eh……you already cleared it?」
Ren nodded back briefly at the surprised Ariella.
「Nn. The secret, also isn’t really interesting.」
「Uu……Ren is strict at this kind of time.」
Ariella dropped her shoulders despondently. The screen was already returning to the stage selection screen, so nobody knew what the secret was.
「What kind of secret it was?」
Ren gave a brief answer at Iris’s question.
「……He often eat omelette rice, for lunch.」
「Ah, certainly Mononobe often eat omelette rice in the cafeteria.」
「Nn.」
Ren nodded briefly once more. She handed the controller to Tia.
「Then, next is Tia’s turn. What’s left is, my stage.」
Five of the six selectable stages had already been cleared. What was left was only Ren’s stage. After it was cleared, the last stage that Firill created would appear.
「Understood! Tia will do her best!」
Tia started Ren’s stage in high spirit.
Everyone else’s stages were played with the player’s perspective looking down from above. In contrast Ren’s stage was styled like an action game that was scrolling horizontally.

It was even more outside the framework of RPG game creation than Tia’s stage before this. It must be created in really great detail from the basic. But──.
「…………I-it’s hard.」
Tia was defeated in just several minutes.
She couldn’t even advance for one screen from the start line.
「The enemies are attacking with amazing speed, and they are even firing bullets! How can something like this be cleared?」
「……Nn. Defeat the enemies, dodge the bullets. That’s all.」
Ren answered briefly. However Tia threw away the controller.
「This is impossible for Tia!」
「──Then, I’ll take your place.」
Lisa stepped forward and picked the controller. However──the result was a crushing defeat.
「T-this is……this isn’t a game that human can clear.」
Lisa’s shoulders dropped despondently.
「Not true. If you grasp the pattern properly, it’s possible.」
Ren calmly replied back, but everyone else also met game over just after advancing several steps.
「As expected……nobody might be able to clear this other than Ren.」
Even a gamer like Firill was completely helpless and put down the controller.
「Nnu……difficulty adjustment, is difficult.」
Ren looked puzzled why nobody was able to clear her stage and tilted her head.
「I guess this is it for today’s play testing if we can’t clear Ren’s stage.」
Ariella smiled wryly while looking at the room’s clock. It was already getting late because of the time they spent for Ren’s stage.
「Eeh!? What about my last stage?」
Firill yelled with an aghast expression.
「──Let’s do it in the next chance. Well, but how about we at least see what kind of secrets Ren-san and Firill-san has prepared?」
「Perhaps we better do that. Perhaps their secrets will also need correction like Tia-san.」
Mitsuki agreed with Lisa’s words.
「……What I prepared is various information, like height, weight, blood type, and so on.」
Ren whispered her reply. Mitsuki’s face stiffened hearing that.
「Wait, that’s Nii-san’s personal data! Ren-san……you hacked Midgard’s database didn’t you?」
「Nnu?」
「It’s pointless trying to dodge the question by acting cute like that! Please revise your part too Ren-san.」
「Muu……」

Ren reluctantly nodded even while she was puffing out her cheeks in dissatisfaction.
「As for Firill-san……there is no problem isn’t it?」
Mitsuki sighed in exasperation and asked Firill in confirmation.
「My information……it’s still a secret to everyone. After all, it’s the special reward for the last stage.」
However Firill refused to answer and made a cross with her fingers.
「Perhaps it is just me, but that makes me feel really uneasy……」
「No, I’m also feeling the same. Firill-san, please tell us what kind of secret it is even if just the summary.」
Lisa agreed with Mitsuki and said so to Firill.
「Hmmm……it can’t be helped. Then, I’ll just give a small hint. If you clear this game……you will find out who is the person Mononobe-kun like.」
「Eeh!?」
Everyone other than Firill all raised their voice in surprise.
「F-Firill-chan, you know who is the person Mononobe like?」
Iris asked in feverish haste.
「Fufu……of course.」
Firill smiled with full confidence, but Lisa questioned her with narrowed gaze.
「Don’t tell me, it’s not your own name that you are putting there isn’t it?」
「Eh, did I ever mention it to Lisa?」
Firill tilted her head in puzzlement.
「Firill-san……what’s your basis for that?」
「Woman’s instinct.」
Mitsuki asked with a low voice. Firill answered her with a fully confident assertion. That made Mitsuki’s patience crossed the limit.
「Please don’t try to spread that kind of false rumor to the whole school with such vague basis! Firill-san need to do retake too!」
Mitsuki yelled and pointed her finger at Firill with a snap.
Like that the game creation that the girls of Brunhilde class started ended up still wandering in a chaos even now──.

Chapter 2 – Fafnir Zero

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◆ Brunhilde Valkyries (The credit for this chapter completely belong to Entropy)
Part 1 – Mononobe Mitsuki
https://www.baka-tsuki.org/project/index.php?title=Unlimited_Fafnir:Brynhildr_Valkyries_Chapter_1
Part 2 – Shinomiya Miyako
https://www.baka-tsuki.org/project/index.php?title=Unlimited_Fafnir:Brynhildr_Valkyries_Chapter_2
Part 3 – Brunhilde Class
https://www.baka-tsuki.org/project/index.php?title=Unlimited_Fafnir:Brynhildr_Valkyries_Chapter_3



Chapter 3 – Merry Christmas
—Newly Written Short Story—

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◆ Christmas Panic (First)

A large helicopter landed on the heliport with a loud sound and strong wind.

A transport ship docked at the port while splashing white sea spray.

I──Mononobe Yuu was standing at the edge of the wharf, staring at the visitors to Midgard.

Today was 22 December. The first day of Midgard Christmas party that was going to be held for four days.

Although, the students of Midgard including me still weren’t in the party mood at all.

The party by the students and for the students would be held in the latter two days.

The first two days would be “diplomatic event” that was opened for the invited outsiders.

Boarding the ships and helicopters were influential people and press from various countries, Midgard’s investors, relatives of “D”, and inspectors from Asgard and NIFL.

They were showed around to have a look of the academy in general, and then they got invited to the party venue in a decorated underground training ground.

There the headmaster Charlotte should be busy running around doing various political negotiations to maintain Midgard’s safety and self-autonomy.

But we the members of Brunhilde class also couldn’t treat it as other people’s problem. We also attended this party and received interview from various press members.

I wasn’t really confident whether I could speak well in front of television camera.

However I should be able to manage somehow.

It should be fine if I simply said what was in my mind. Even now my chest was filled with gratitude toward the people who lent us “light” in that battle.

The bigger problem was──.

「Captain!」

I heard a voice calling me from the heliport. It seemed that they had arrived.

I made a heavy sigh and resolved myself before heading there.

The girl wearing boy uniform, Jeanne Hortensia was waving her hand at me. She was my classmate who also belonged to Brunhilde class, but she was my subordinate when we were in NIFL. That was why Jeanne still called me captain even now.
「Yeah, I'm going there!」
I replied with a loud voice so that it wouldn't be drowned by the sound of helicopter's motor and hurried to the heliport that was located beside the port.
And then the large helicopter's hatch opened at the same time when I reached Jeanne's location.
Coming down from there was a tall man and seven boys.
All of them were wearing NIFL's military uniform. They were radiating a dangerous atmosphere that didn't suit this peaceful southern island.
「──Hello Second Lieutenant Mononobe. Thanks for coming this far to welcome us.」
The man smiled slightly when he saw me and talked to me.
「Long time no see Major Loki. This is because you acted as you pleased during the school festival and I met a horrible experience after that. This time I'll watch over you closely from start to finish.」
I replied to my former superior──Loki Jotunheim with a sarcastic tone.
「Fuh……that means you are my escort. That's great. With this my Sleipnir has regained its complete form.」
Major Loki glanced briefly toward Jeanne before smiling in delight.
Then the boys standing behind him all saluted simultaneously.
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「Captain Mononobe! Long time no see!!」
.
I responded with a wry smile toward the straightforward gaze of my former subordinates.
「……I'm glad that you guys are also looking well.」
When I saw them the last time, they were swallowed by authority and lost their ego. However right now each of them was showing a human expression.
「But, let me make this clear──I'm not planning to return to Sleipnir. I'm Brunhilde class's Mononobe Yuu till the end. Of course that includes Jeanne too.」
I grabbed the shoulder of Jeanne who was observing the situation from the side and pulled her closer. Her face turned red, even so she nodded her head.
「Y-yes, it's just as captain say!」
Jeanne declared so, but Major Loki turned a meaningful gaze my way with his long slit eyes.
「That's too bad. However Second Lieutenant Mononobe──I intentionally bring them here because I think that you will need them.」
「What do you mean……by that?」

I frowned and asked back. Major Loki shrugged and dodged the question.
「You will understand soon. First you can fulfill your current role.」
I reluctantly returned to my work by his urging.
「──Then please follow me. I'll show everyone the currently peaceful Midgard.」
.
Right now the visitors from outside were showed the figures of the students working hard in preparing the party.
The hall that would become the main venue for the third and fourth days, and the classrooms of each class where the after party would be held.
There the "D" girls living in Midgard were decorating the places with their utmost effort.
Jeanne and I brought Major Loki and the others to go around each classroom.
「This is Ortlinde classroom.」
「──I see.」
However Major Loki only gave such interested reply even though I was showing him around.
The members of Sleipnir who were walking behind us were also getting excited with a completely unrelated topic.
「However to think Jeanne is actually a woman.」
「But, thinking back now there was a lot of strange things from her.」
「……She absolutely wouldn't change in front of other people.」
「I thought she was a strange fellow, but I paid it no mind because this squad is full of eccentrics.」
「Who are you calling eccentric!」
「I think it's you yourself if you have self-awareness though.」
「I have absolute confidence that I'm not an eccentric so please don't include mee~」
Jeanne who became the center of the topic was warning them with a slightly fed up look.
「You guys, it's fine to make a racket like that but──don't you dare ogling at Midgard's female students. They don't really have immunity toward male. It also became a big commotion when I transferred into here.」
They nodded at Jeanne's instruction, but to be honest we already became the center of attention even without doing anything.
When we came in front of a classroom, the girls would keep working while observing us from the corner of their eyes and whispering to each other with low voices.
At first I thought they were looking at the members of Sleipnir who were males of similar age with them, but I noticed that wasn't the case.
「──Look, that person.」
「Ah……as I thought, at the school festival, he and Yuu-sama──」
「Really? Then that rumor……」
「Yuu-sama who was dressed as woman went to the rooftop──」

It seemed that they were looking toward Major Loki and me.
Major Loki also came for inspection at the school festival, so perhaps there were students who remembered him.
「……Certainly those two are, for some reason──」
「Hurry and contact President Firill!」
「No, I'm in Jeanne-sama faction till the end……」
「But by any chance……the relationship map from here on will──」
My back got goosebumps from the fragments of conversation that I picked up.
I didn't really get what they were talking about, but my instinct was pleading to me that it would be better to not stay here for long.
「Major Loki, I'll show you the next classroom.」
When I prompted Major Loki, shrill cheers *kyaa* rose from inside the classroom for some reason.
I sped up my steps to run away from those voices.



.
The party for outside visitors that was held in the decorated underground training ground ended without any particular problem.
I believed that the media coverage toward Brunhilde class was also done well.
When reading letter that was directed toward the people of the world, Iris bit her tongue many times, but that was also a warming scene.
However there was no way the first day of the party would end peacefully like that.
That was something that I knew since Loki Jotunheim landed on Midgard with Sleipnir in tow.
「──Now then, Second Lieutenant Mononobe. I wonder if you are able to determine your “enemy”?」
I took a break at the corner of the venue after the media coverage. Major Loki approached me there and threw me that question with a lowered voice.
「You mean the guys making suspicious movements during the party? It seems that Sleipnir dealt with them though……」
I also kept looking forward while replying back with a small voice.
「Yeah, they are spies that sneaked in by slipping among the invitees. We apprehended them when they sneaked out of the party venue to try something with the electricity generator. However this won’t be the end of it.」
「What’s their objective?」
「──Capture of “D” who belong to Brunhilde class.」
「I see.」
I replied shortly. Major Loki looked at me with a surprised face seeing my reaction.
「You are calmer than I expected.」
「Because I have thought that something like this might happen.」
And I had decided since a long time ago. That I would protect this ordinary days from any enemy.
「Atla has deciphered their communication cipher just now. It seems they are planning to assault your lodging house tonight.」
「──I’ll turn the table on them.」
「You’re mistaken, Second Lieutenant Mononobe. That won’t be insufficient. You should crush the crawling out insects thoroughly without leaving any behind. By yourself you will have no option other than focusing on defending your base, but right now you have eight powerful legs with you.」
Major Loki turned a sharp gaze at me. I sent back a bitter expression at him.

「……I’m not going to count of this as a debt you know?」

「Of course. After all we are also obtaining your cooperation. Now──Fafnir. Feel free to ride Sleipnir and go in a rampage.」

.

The night was filled with radiant stars.

I was taking rein of Sleipnir at the empty lot behind the lodging house.

「──All hands, report the situation.」

I questioned through the small communicator on my ear. Then replies immediately came back.

「This is Lancelot. The defense of clock tower headquarters successful~. Three enemies secured.」

「Otr here. Their “upper” is secured.」

「……Nataku. Encountering enemies inside the forest. Securing one. The enemies are using high precision optical camouflage. Be cautious.」

「This is Sigurd. No abnormality at the southern coastline.」

「It’s Robin. The enemy’s electronic warfare personnel neutralized. I have poured in Atla-san’s special virus into their terminal, so there is no worry for Midgardsorm boss.」

「Kunato here. Enemy’s escape boat confirmed at the north coast. Two enemies on standby are neutralized.」

「This is Jeanne. Captain, one group confirmed advancing through the thick forest at the northeast.」

I immediately gave the next order after hearing Jeanne’s report.

「Roger. Regin, go around behind the enemies and cut off their path of retreat. Jeanne, cover him up with sniping when the enemies get into open space.」

「This is Regin. Roger.」

「Jeanne here, mission acknowledged.」

I finished the communication and turned my focus toward the thick forest surrounding the open space.

「It looks like things are going smoothly, Second Lieutenant Mononobe.」

Major Loki who was leaning on the lodging house’s wall while observing my command talked to me in enjoyment.

「──Yes. But, who are the enemies? Optical camouflage is still not applicable even in NIFL……and they have even prepared to turn off Midgardsomr……」

Major Loki responded with a smile of implication at my gaze of suspicion toward him.

「They are a group that got cocky after getting their hand on a legacy.」

「……A legacy?」

「Yeah──the legacy of an ancient civilization that possess a different technological system than Atlantis……they excavated a “ship” called Agarta from deep underground. Their cutting edge equipment is the benefit from that.」

「What……」

I held my breath. Major Loki shrugged slightly at me.

「Don’t worry. In the end Agarta is just the wreckage of “those who failed to arrive”. They weren’t at the level of Atlantis, our ancestor who travelled through the distant space. In fact, we have almost completely suppressed their base. The attack this time is their last chance to revive from their brink of death.」
「Then, this matter will be resolved if all of them are captured.」
I sighed in relieve while confirming.
「That’s how it is. But, it will be better if you at least keep this in mind. This world, the space is extremely vast. Many threats that surpassed our imagination are lurking out there.」
Major Loki narrowed his gaze and told me with a lowered voice.
「For example──there is this record within the database that Atla salvaged from Agarta. In this universe, there are seven existences of heinous demons who are called as “deadly sins” or perhaps “fallen creators”.」
「Fallen, creators……」
I knew about the words of creator. Major Loki watched my expression and turned his eyes toward the space and muttered.
「Yes, Angolmois that all of you defeated is one of those. The deadly sin “Gluttony”. Well, in this vast universe, the possibility of us encountering another deadly sins in our lifetime is extremely low. However, the unexpected can possibly occur anytime.」
「…………」
I responded wordlessly to his words.
「Second Lieutenant Mononobe. Peace is something that you win with effort. It’s something that cannot be protected unless you continue to fight. Even if you yourself aren’t fighting, there is someone somewhere fighting. Also you never know who will turn into your enemy.」
There his bottomless cold gaze pierced me.
「I will continue to fight in order to make mankind’s survival continue. When the peace that you are trying to protect become an obstacle to that, I will surely become your enemy once more.」
I accepted his gaze head on and nodded deeply.
「──Yes, I understand. But, at the very least that time isn’t now.」
When I warded off Major Loki’s chilling killing intent with a smile, he too sported a small smile.
「I guess. At the very least, right now is──」
And then both Major Loki and I pulled out a gun simultaneously.
Toward the “unseen enemies” that appeared inside the jungle.
The precision of the optical camouflage was really high and it was impossible to perceive the attacker’s form with naked eye. However all my senses other than my sight were alarming that the enemy was there.
Gunshots rang out over each other.
Like that──my peace was continuing.
.

◆ Christmas Panic (End)

「Fuu……it’s finally over……」
The second day of the party.
Major Loki and Sleipnir took away the attackers that were captured last night to NIFL. We had also seen off the other visitors from the party venue just now.
The training ground that was decorated to be party venue was now completely deserted.
The noisy atmosphere filling this place until just now felt like a lie now.
I sat down on a seat near a table where empty glasses were left untouched and stared in a daze toward the tall ceiling. Then I heard light footsteps approaching.
「Thanks for your hard work Nii-san. However the real thing will only start after this for us.」
When I turned my gaze, Mitsuki was there standing in her uniform with a wry smile.
Last night, while I was taking on the attackers outside the lodging house, Mitsuki and others were also preparing inside the building in case the unthinkable happened. In the end that kind of situation didn’t occur, but the ill effects from spending our time like that affected our preparation today. We only barely finished our works.
「……Yeah, I know. It will be the party for the students starting tomorrow. That’s where the student council president and executive committee president need to work hard.」
I raised my arms high and stretched. I pulled myself together and stood up. Fatigue was accumulating in me, but I still couldn’t rest.
Then the other members of Brunhilde class also gathered here.
「Mononobe! I’ll also help out!」
Running this way with her long silver hair bouncing around was Iris who looked like she still had excessive energy left.
Ariella who was following behind her was looking at Iris with a respectful gaze.
「Iris is amazing……I’m already worn out here. I never want to go through another interview anymore.」
Certainly Ariella’s face was showing deep color of exhaustion.
Midgard’s common students didn’t attend this party, but we were the exceptions. Our faces and names were exposed during the broadcast asking

for help from people all over the world. All of us were going through the interview in our uniform.
「You can just deal with something like that half-heartedly. It will be just your loss if you respond to them seriously.」
The one who said that was Kili who looked like she still had some leeway. However Lisa immediately interrupted from beside her.
「Wait a second Kili-san. Isn’t that rude toward everyone who lent us their strength in the final battle if you act like that?」
「What are you saying. We saved the world in exchange of them lending their strength. All our debts should be cleared with that. Our positions with each other are equal. There is no need for us to act servile to them.」
「I’m not telling you to act servile toward them. This is a matter of sincerity──」
Lisa and Kili started arguing.
But this was something usual so I didn’t really do anything to stop them and talked to the approaching Ren.
「Were you able to talk with Chief Miyazawa Ren?」
Miyazawa Kengo, the chief of Asgard’s far east branch’s first laboratory and also Ren’s father showed his face in this party too.
「……Nn. I didn’t. But, I punched his back hard.」
Ren said that and smiled in satisfaction.
「I see, you did great.」
I also laughed and patted Ren’s fluffy red hair. She narrowed her eyes pleasantly.
「Aah! Yuu! Tia too Tia too!」
Tia also pestered me after seeing that, so I put my other hand on Tia’s head and patted her.
Tia was wearing hat the whole time during the party. Her hair was slightly damp from sweat because of that. Her horns looked a bit too conspicuous, so they were hidden during the interview.
There I felt a light impact on my waist.
When I turned around, Shion was looking up at me as though she wanted to say something.
Jeanne and Vritra were also there behind her.
These three didn’t have their faces and names broadcasted during the final battle, so they didn’t participate in the party and waited somewhere else.
「Captain, thanks for all of your hard work. Shion couldn’t have captain pay attention to her yesterday and today, so it looks like she is feeling a bit lonely.」
Jeanne looked at Shion who was clinging on me wordlessly and said that.
Vritra also nodded with a tired look.
「I have kept her company all this time. Thou better be grateful.」
「……Papa.」
Shion pleaded with her gaze.

But right now I had both my hands full even if I wanted to look after her. As I pondered about what to do, Tia grabbed my hand and lifted it up.
「Yuu, Tia is an Onee-san, so Tia will give her turn to Shion!」
Hearing that Ren also parted from me reluctantly.
「Nn……me too.」
「Thanks you two.」
I thanked the two of them before facing Shion and combed her purple hair with my fingers.
「I'm sorry that I made you felt lonely like that. Today we are going to decorate the hall after this……can you also help Shion?」
Unlike the administration work until now, Shion should also participate if it was a decorating work, so I made that suggestion.
Hearing that Shion's face brightened joyfully and she nodded enthusiastically.
「Yes! I'lL heLp oUt With paPa's woRk!」
Everyone around us smiled seeing Shion's happiness.
Shinomiya-sensei and Headmaster Charlotte also came toward us while that happened.
「Mononobe Yuu. Us the staffs will tidy up this place. All of you can quickly return to your actual work. Shion──do your best in helping them okay?」
Shinomiya-sensei put her hand on Shion's shoulder and encouraged her.
「My friend, and young ladies! Our public appeal can be said as successful thanks to all of you. With this there is no need for us to care about external attention for a while. Go relax and enjoy the party in the remaining two days.」
Charlotte was wearing a gorgeous dress that was fitting for the master of Midgard. She thanked our effort with a serious face.
But her expression immediately loosened up after that. She quickly approached me and whispered into my ear.
「──Fu fu fu, actually my friend. I have prepared extremely bold and beautiful dresses for the maidens. You can look forward to tomorrow. Also, don't forget to take some commemorative photographs alright? I too wish to appreciate their figures leisurely later after all.」
「You never changed at all Char……well, I get it.」
I nodded with a wry smile and started walking toward the exit but──I suddenly noticed.
「Eh? Come to think of it, where is Firill?」
I looked around but for some reason I couldn't find Firill anywhere.
Firill was also attending the party just now.
As a princess of Erlia Principality, she wasn't only dealing with the press, she was also exchanging greeting with representatives of various countries, so she must be even more tired than us.
「……She isn't fainted somewhere isn't she?」
Lisa heard my mutter and looked around too with worry.
「I'll go search Firill-chan!」

Iris said that and broke into a run, but then the area suddenly turned dark. And then the stage at the back of the venue was illuminated with dazzling light.
「W-what in the world is going on?」
Ariella let out a bewildered voice while we turned our focus to the stage. Then a man clad in a red mantel and a crown walked out from the corner of the stage.
「Ah! That's Firill's Otou-san!」
Tia raised her voice when she saw him.
「King Alfred……?」
Shinomiya-sensei looked like she also didn't understand the situation. She stared at the king of Elria Principality with a puzzled expression.
He was also participating in the party just now, but he wasn't dressed in such outfit that really screamed his status as "king" like that.
When the formally dressed King Alfred stopped walking at the center of the stage, he turned toward us.
There Charlotte asked him a question as our representative.
「What's the matter King Alfred? Is there perhaps any problem with your private ship?」
There was some distance until the stage, but the venue was quiet so her voice traversed clearly.
He looked slightly awkward and shook his head toward that question.
「No, that's not the case. Headmaster Charlotte……actually I was asked for a request by my daughter……and so I'm delaying my departure slightly.」
After he answered like that, a girl in white dress appeared from the corner of the stage.
「Yep, I asked father to be a witness.」
「Firill……?」
I gulped.
That girl was Firill who we had just been looking for. Furthermore looking closer, that dress…….
「Waa! That's wedding dress-!!」
Tia cheered.
Yes, that was undoubtedly a bridal costume. Come to think of it I was so busy and forgot, but Firill once said that she was going to do something in this party…….
Firill looked this way and our gazes met.
「Fufu──Mononobe-kun, this time has finally arrived.」
Firill muttered that. When she arrived beside King Alfred, she twirled on the spot to display her dress before she took the mike that was still left on the stage.
「Everyoneee! Now the ancient Elria marriage ceremony──the complete hard mode version shall begiiinnn!!」
Firill raised her arm high and yelled.

However we could only watch with our jaw hanging down. Firill’s voice echoed inside the venue in vain.
「Geez……everyone, what’s with that cold reaction. Even though it’s finally our chance to marry with Mononobe-kun.」
Firill puffed her cheeks in dissatisfaction on the stage.
Lisa came back to her senses and stepped forward when she heard those words.
「F-Firill-san! Marriage you said……just what in the world do you mean by that!?」
「I mean exactly what I said, Lisa. What we are going to do after this is the ceremony for marriage that was once practiced in Elria Principality. The couple who finished this ceremony would be able to marry no matter what kind of status or age difference existed between them.」
Firill answered like that and looked toward King Alfred beside her.
He nodded with an expression that looked somewhat resigned. Most likely he had gotten into a lot of arguments with Firill until things reached this point.



「──Indeed, certainly Elria Principality has that kind of old custom. It hasn't been abolished, so it's still in effect even now. This ceremony is considered valid if a witness from the royal family is present. That's why I changed into formal attire like this.」
King Alfred said that while showing his crown and mantel that looked like historical items.
Firill smiled in satisfaction from her father's guarantee.
「Yep, that's how it is. But don't worry. I'm not selfishly trying to marry with Mononobe-kun. Everyone in this place all have a chance. Of course that also include the headmaster and Shinomiya-sensei too.」
「Wwha-!?」
Charlotte's face reddened and she jerked back, while Shinomiya-sensei was also showing agitation.
「M-Mononobe Yuu and me? D-don't say something stupid. He and I are student and teacher──」
And then Tia raised her hand without paying attention to the flustered two women.
「Tia is still not in the age that can marry though, is it alright?」
Firill nodded with a smile to that question.
「Of course. It's also all okay for Tia, even Shion is fine.」
Firill gave a thumb up and her guarantee.
「Then Tia will do her best-!」
「MarRyIng wIth pApa……I doN't reallY gEt It bUt, i aLso wanT To Do iT.」
The two got on board with Firill's proposal and showed their willingness, but that wasn't the case with everyone else.
「Firill-san! Please don't arrange thing as you please! I won't allow something like marriage with Nii-san!」
Mitsuki declared bluntly, but Firill smiled like a villain and took out a switch from her chest.
「Mitsuki, I don't plan to argue with you here. Because the situation is already arranged. Your options are──participating in this ceremony or not, that's all.」
Firill said that and pushed the switch.
gogogogogogo──!
A low pitched sound came from above.
Looking up, the hatch at the ceiling was opening up.
Originally this place was a training ground, so it also had several delivery entrances like that.
「W-what is starting……」
Iris was staring up to the ceiling anxiously.

Firill’s voice reverberated there.

「A looong time ago, in Elria Principality, when lovers who originally couldn’t marry because of their background wished to do so──the king imposed a tribulation on them to give them a chance so they could marry in a special circumstance.」

Firill spoke of the origin of the ceremony with a solemn tone.

「The trial’s tasks are to shoot down a bird that is released to the sky with a bow, and to answer the question in the letter that is tied to the bird’s leg. The lovers will be able to marry if their answer to that question is the same with each other, and if not they will be pushed into the great waterfall of Elria.」

Everyone’s face stiffened from that dangerous explanation.

Firill smiled and shook her head seeing our reaction.

「It’s fine, don’t worry. Because I have arranged the content of the trial to suit the modern era. It will be too pitiful for the birds if we have to kill it just for this, and there is also no waterfall or the like in Midgard.」

Right after Firill said that, small drones flew in from the ceiling’s hatch one after another.

The drones flew around freely with the four propellers attached to their frame. Each of them had a small envelope attached.

「Look, those drones are the substitute for birds. Aim at them with a paint gun. They will automatically land if their sensor gets dirtied. Ah, you can find the guns under the table.」

Ren lifted up the table cloth and peered below after she heard that.

「……Nn. It’s really there.」

Ren took out a plastic paint gun that looked like toy. Jeanne narrowed her eyes seeing that.

「No matter the gun, this condition is really advantageous for me…… perhaps captain and me will──n-no, even without that, as long as I can be at captain’s side……」

Jeanne clutched her head and began to worry, but Firill added more to her explanation there.

「As for the waterfall’s replacement, there is a hard penalty game waiting for you okayyy. The important thing isn’t shooting down the drone, but matching your answer with Mononobe-kun. You will be able to keep taking the challenge as many as you want, but you might not be able to move for a while after getting the penalty you know?」

Firill smiled boldly and swept aside the skirt of her dress. She then pulled out two paint balls from the holsters on her thighs.

「Then the explanation is over-! Aaand, start!」

Firill declared the start of the ceremony and quickly lifted up her two guns. She aimed at a drone and fired.

「Wai──Firill-san! I still haven’t accepted this!」

Mitsuki tried to stop her in panic, but beside her Lisa took out a paint gun from under the table. She frowned seeing that.

「L-Lisa-san, you are going to do it?」

「The only way to stop Firill-san is by finishing this ceremony ahead of her. After all it’s the winner’s liberty whether they are really going to marry or not.」

Lisa said that and gallantly aimed her gun, but there she glanced briefly toward me.

「But, it’s not like there is really any reason to refuse if he doesn’t dislike it though……」

「Wait, as I thought you are just planning to participate normally! Enough──I understand. In that case I’ll protect Nii-san till the end!」

Mitsuki also got defiant and took out a paint gun.

That became the start for everyone to reach under the table too.

「Err, well……might as well. I don’t really want to hold a weapon but, if it’s just a toy gun like this……」

Ariella muttered something that sounded like excuse while gripping her paint gun. Ren too had already secured two guns.

「I-I’ll do my best too. I want to try, doing something like this. Onee-chan, teach me how.」

Ren asked Ariella the way to shoot the paint gun. Tia also came running seeing that.

「Tia also want to be taught!」

「Ariella-chan, me too!」

Even Iris approached her. Ariella sighed seeing that.

「No, we are more or less rivals here though……well, it’s fine I guess. Perhaps it’s better to see this as a surprise event from Firill and just enjoy it. After all in the end it depends on Mononobe-kun how it will turn out.」

Ariella relaxed her shoulders and glanced at me for an instant. Then she began lecturing everyone.

Shion also ran toward Jeanne with a paint gun in hand.

「mAma, tEach Me.」

「……Y-yeah, got it. Yosh, let’s us protect captain!」

The worrying Jeanne also resolved herself and clenched her fist.

「I don’t really care about thing like marriage but……it’s boring to just watch, so I’ll join in. You are going to do it too right, Okaa-sama?」

Kili said that and gave one of the guns she took out to Vritra.

「Fumu……I’m also not interested with the law that human created but, this event looks like fun. It also doesn’t look dangerous, so I shall participate.」

Vritra stared in interest at the paint gun while nodding.

And then Charlotte and Shinomiya-sensei also took a gun after hesitating.

「Haruka, in the end I’m only participating in order to help my friend you know? By no means I’m seriously trying to marry him you know? It’s true you know?」

Charlotte made sure of that many times with Shinomiya-sensei.

「Y-yes, I understand. I too am only participating in order to settle down this commotion quickly. With King Alfred’s involvement, putting a halt to the

ceremony will make him lose face. Besides……t-teacher marrying a student is just……n-not good for the public moral.」
Shinomiya-sensei nodded, but she was strangely minding my presence.
「…………What should I do here?」
While everyone started aiming at the drones, I who was left alone was at a loss.
I was undoubtedly someone concerned in this situation, but I didn't know what should I do.
There Firill in her wedding dress and two guns in hands approached me.
「Mononobe-kun, when someone shot down a drone, go with her to father. And then father will read up the question. Answer it together with the girl at the count of three.」
I sent a protesting gaze at Firill who explained that in a rapid talk.
「I'm really going to get married if our answer match?」
「Yep, a legal one based on Elria Principality's law. If possible I want to marry with Mononobe-kun. I'm wearing this dress with that intention but……I won't complain even if someone else win.」
It was a dignified line that was filled with resolve, but I noticed the scheming light flickering inside her eyes.
「And, your true aim is?」
Firill smiled mischievously when I prompted her.
「Fufu──surely the other girls won't be able to accept it no matter who end up the winner. But if the marriage cannot be annulled, their only choice is to get into the same position right? In that case they won't have any choice but to get on the harem plan that I proposed before.」
Firill clenched her fist and spoke of her ambition.
「You are really unwavering Firill……」
Firill nodded with a smile seeing me sighing.
「Of course, a maiden's determination can't be shaken that easily. But……it's another story if Mononobe-kun doesn't want to you know?」
There Firill showed a slightly timid face and continued speaking hesitantly.
「You see, in the original ceremony, people who lost to their fear of getting pushed to the waterfall would shoot their partner. With that the ceremony would be called off.」
「……That's brutal.」
「Well, it's an ancient rite after all. But this time it's also possible to retire. If Mononobe-kun shot us with paint gun……this ceremony will finish. What will you do?」
Firill spread her hands wide open as though to say that I could shoot her anytime.
I had decided that I would absolutely "make everyone happy".
To be honest, I couldn't say with certainty that Firill's plan would be best for that. However──.
I sighed deeply after looking the way Firill stared fixedly at me.
「……I won't shoot.」

Firill looked relieved when I said that, but then she immediately showed a puzzled expression.
「Thank god──but, why?」
She asked me. I pointed at the pure white wedding dress that Firill was wearing.
「There is no way I can dirty that dress. Right……putting aside whether we are going to marry here or not, there is something that I gotta say.」
I scratched my head and told her while holding back my embarrassment.
「Firill, that dress look really good on you. You are pretty.」
「Fueh……!?」
Firill let out a strange voice and her face instantly turned bright red. She flapped both her hands up and down.
「Wait a second Mononobe-kun! That's no good! Foul!」
Firill turned her back on me to hide her red face and raised her gun.
「…………Geez, because of Mononobe-kun's fault my motivation is welling up more than necessary. Now I don't think that it's fine whoever win. I'll absolutely win this.」
Firill declared with a strong tone and rushed toward the swarm of drones flying around inside the party venue.
「──I didn't shoot by my own will, so I can't complain anymore now.」
No matter the result, I had decided to go along with this ceremony and walked toward King Alfred.
However before I arrived at the stage, a joyful voice reverberated.
「Captain! I did it!」
Looking there, a drone that was dirtied by paint ball landed in front of Jeanne.
As expected, Jeanne was the first one with her shooting skill that was far above the rest.
Jeanne took off the white envelope attached on the drone and ran toward me.
「U-umm, captain. I'm, err, not really wishing for something outrageous like marriage but……if a winner is needed in order to end this ceremony, I, I'll──」
I smiled at Jeanne who was talking with a flustered tone. I grabbed her arm and dragged her to the stage.
「Got it, that's a big help. Then let's go to Alfred-san's place.」
I said that and got up on the stage together with Jeanne. I hesitantly handed the envelope to King Alfred who was staring at the venue with a distant look.
I didn't know what he thought about a historical ceremony of his country getting arranged like this and how his daughter's marriage was hanging on it, but he looked at me and smiled softly.
「Sorry that my daughter's selfishness dragged you in like this. As expected I couldn't refuse when she said that she is asking for a reward for saving the world. But──even though we are calling it marriage, it's more like a

special measure that only apply inside Elria Principality. So just do it leisurely.」
「──Yes, I understand.」
I was relieved by those words, but there his expression turned grave.
「However, it will be a different story in case it’s a marriage with my daughter. Mononobe-kun, you should resolve yourself.」
「R-roger that.」
I was overwhelmed by a father’s pressure and nodded.
「Very good. Then let’s begin the ceremony. Now I shall ask thee.」
He took out a letter from the envelope and read the content solemnly. Jeanne and I gulped.
「When taking a bath, which part of thy body thou start washing from?」
「Heh……?」
We were dumbfounded because the question was more ordinary than we expected, but King Alfred paid us no mind and proceeded ahead.
「Then answer the question with the same breath.」
Prompted by him, Jeanne and I looked at each other and told him our answer at the count of three.
「Left arm.」
「Around the chest. B-because it’s stuffy……」
I pointed at my left arm while Jeanne touched her chest.
「Fumu, different answer huh. Then it’s penalty game.」
King Alfred raised his hand. Then a woman appeared from the corner of the stage pushing a trolley. I believed that person was Firill’s former wet nurse, Helen-san. She was also present in the party as King Alfred’s attendant. Something that looked like long boots made from metal was placed on the trolley.
「Wear them on your feet.」
It seemed that they were really boots just as their appearance suggested. I felt a bad premonition while we did as we were told. The inside felt unexpectedly soft because there was a cushion.
「That is a health instrument that my daughter gifted me for my birthday present some time ago. It’s a powerful foot acupuncture point massaging device, “Agony Artisan”.」
King Alfred spoke with an expression that looked somewhat dark. He took out something that looked like a remote control.
「When I first used it, a scream echoed through the palace and the royal guards rushed in. And then just as the name of this tool hinted, I fainted in agony for an hour……」
「O-one hour……」
My expression convulsed from King Alfred’s speech that came from real experience, but beside me Jeanne only smiled confidently.
「It will be fine captain. I once heard that something like this won’t feel that painful to human whose body condition is good. That’s why──」

But the moment King Alfred turned on the switch, our screams reverberated through the venue.
And then one minute later, King Alfred told Jeanne and me who collapsed on the floor in agony with a pitying tone.
「It’s too bad but, this tool is effective even for small fatigue.」
The pain still remained on the backs of my feet even after Helen-san took off the massaging devices.
Jeanne was completely unmoving━━everyone else looked somewhat creeped out by what happened to us, but next Ariella boldly stepped forward.
I mustered out my strength and somehow got back on feet, but there I suddenly noticed.
「C-could it be……I’ll keep receiving the penalty for each failure……?」
「Looks like it. That’s why Mononobe-kun, let’s finish it with this. Our breathing completely matched each other even when we fought together, so surely we can do this.」
Ariella encouraged me with a bright voice. With that I too somehow could fire up my heart that almost yielded.
「I ask thee. What is the most important thing needed in order to realize world peace?」
The question’s scale was really big in a complete opposite of the previous question.
The answers that Ariella and I produced were━━.
「Deterrence.」
「Love……or something?」
King Alfred narrowed his eyes sadly.
「Penalty game━━Agony Artisan.」
Our shrieks echoed through the venue once more.
But Mitsuki came next without any time for me to rest. As expected from someone who had bow as her fictitious armament, she secured a drone quickly.
「Nii-san, you can be relieved now that I’m here. I know everything about Nii-san, so I’ll definitely match your answer perfectly.」
Mitsuki challenged this trial without any fear even after seeing the fainting Jeanne and Ariella.
「Y-you’re right……let’s do our best, Mitsuki.」
I was already unsteady on my feet from the second penalty game, but I somehow stood up by borrowing Mitsuki’s hand.
And the question for the two of us was━━.
「I ask thee. How many children does thou wish for after marriage?」
「Wha━━」
Both of us reflexively looked at each other. Mitsuki was going bright red until her ears.
I also felt my face heating up while I answered together with Mitsuki.
「A-around two……?」
「Te-……ah, I mean, t-t-tw-, two children.」

Our answer matched after a fashion, but it was clear that Mitsuki changed her answer to match me.
「It’s too bad but, it’s disqualification if the answer isn’t at the same time.」
Alfred-san said that and carried out the penalty game.
「───!!」
Perhaps because of all her fatigue that had accumulated until now, Mitsuki writhed in a noticeable way before she went limp and didn’t move at all.
I had gotten a bit used to it, but I still couldn’t hold back my scream.
However I had no time to rest. Those who shot down the drone came one after another.
「Mononobe Yuu. I’m next. Even like this……I believe that I have a good understanding about you, so there should be a chance of success for us.」
Lisa wasn’t letting her guard down at all despite the confidence that she exuded.
But the ceremony’s question surpassed our expectation again.
「I ask thee. When your child start going to school, how much allowance thou are going to give them each month?」
Lisa looked my way after hearing that. She nodded briefly. It seemed that she was planning to match my sense of value.
And so I answered with the amount of allowance that I received when I was in the first grade of elementary school. Surely there would be no problem if I also used yen as the monetary unit.
「One hundred yen.」
「A thousand yen.」
Right after that, Lisa looked at me in disbelief.
「W-what can you possibly buy with one hundred yen!? You shouldn’t be able to even buy a canned juice with that in Japan!」
「……Lisa, there is snack that you can buy even with just ten yen in Japan.」
I knew that she would meet me halfway, even so it seemed that we still couldn’t bury the difference in sense of value between us completely.
And then both of us writhed in agony.
「Then next is me. Yuu, if you don’t want to get any more penalty game than this, you better match your answer with me.」
The next challenger was Kili.
She challenged the ceremony with a completely opposite stance than Lisa.
「I ask thee. What are thou going to do if thou happen to see an abandoned cat in a cardboard box at roadside?」
──I just need to match my answer with Kili huh.
I recalled her instruction just now and answered.
「I’ll pick and keep it.」
「I’ll ignore it──wait a second Yuu! I told you to match my answer right?」
「That’s why I matched it with what Kili will do. In the past, you once jumped into a river to save a kitten didn’t you?」
「T-that was, it was that kid that followed me on its own, because of that──」

Helen-san quickly put the massaging devices on our feet while we argued. Our conversation changed into a shriek midway.
「It’s more, that I imagined……」
Kili became one of the unconscious victims.
「……Mononobe Yuu. Next, can I, ask you to do it with me. No, this is just in order to quickly settle this matter, that’s all, it’s my responsibility as an educator──」
Then Shinomiya-sensei came while saying a similar line like Jeanne before.
「Yes, let’s do it.」
I who had my thinking capability being reduced from the repeated penalty game nodded in agreement without feeling particularly doubtful.
「I ask thee. Where do thou want to do greeting kiss in the morning?」
「Wha──what a shameless question……i-in the first place I’m still──」
Shinomiya-sensei looked shaken, but she gasped and looked at me before clearing her throat. She pulled herself together.
「V-very well then. Mononobe Yuu, this must be a slightly stimulating question for you but──please match your answer with my adult self.」
I heard her demand and answered after thinking for a bit.
「Lips.」
「Cheek…………wait, Mononobe Yuu. Just now, did you answer lips?」
Helen-san put the massaging device on the flinching Shinomiya-sensei.
「I’m sorry, I thought that an adult like Shinomiya-sensei might do it on the lips……」
I apologized while putting the massaging device myself.
「N-no way, to be so bold right from the morning──hauh!?」
The foot acupuncture point activated while she was in the middle of talking. Shinomiya-sensei showed the most reaction among everyone until now. As expected, it seemed an adult naturally had the most fatigue piling up.
I endured the pain while taking off the massaging device from Shinomiya-sensei who was in the verge of fainting.
「Ah! I did ittt! I finally hit one Mononobe!」
There I heard Iris’s happy voice.
「Wrong! It was Tia who hit it just now!」
But Tia was making some kind of objection.
「Nn, I think it was also my bullet that hit.」
「mIne Too, hIt aT thE sAme tIme.」
「No, that was mine prey!」
「My bad for the maidens, but it was me who caught the falling drone.」
In addition Ren, Shion, Vritra, and Charlotte also joined the argument. Because the drones’ number had been reduced, it created a situation where the participants were fighting for one drone.
Seeing that situation, Alfred-san gestured with his hand for all of them to get up on stage.

「Then, let’s carry out the ceremony with everyone. After all in the ancient history, there is also a record that mentioned how people who wished for polygamy challenged the ceremony too.」
Like that I, Iris, Tia, Ren, Shion, Vritra, and Charlotte ended up answering the question together.
「Mononobe, if we really end up married……w-what will happen? C-could it be my name will become Iris Mononobe? I’ll be Mononobe too?」
Iris was looking excessively restless before the ceremony.
「No! Tia will be the one who become Mononobe!」
Shion tilted her head in puzzlement when she heard Tia’s protest.
「aFter gEtting married……I’Ll become papa? Two papa? I’m Also pApa?」
「Nn, wrong. Onii-chan won’t increase. Eh……but, if we marry, Onii-chan won’t be Onii-chan anymore……?」
Ren also started to get confused about something and clutched her head.
「C-could it be, marriage is a ceremony that change one’s existence itself? In that case perhaps I have underestimated human all this time……」
Vritra made a strange misunderstanding and shuddered with a tense expression.
「O-oi, calm down. Char, calm everyone somehow──」
I asked for help from Charlotte who was the only adult among us here, but she was standing stock still in an absurdly tense state.
「D-did you say something, my friend. C-could it be that you are thinking that I’m seriously wishing to marry you? Don’t worry, I only love beautiful maidens……that’s, how it should be, but……for some reason my heart won’t stop pounding since some time ago. M-my face is also feeling hot, perhaps I caught a cold……n-no, as the Vampire something like that is──」
Charlotte was talking rapidly with a shrill voice.
She talked too fast that I couldn’t really hear what she said, but it looked like she didn’t have the composure to calm down everyone.
Alfred-san dispassionately asked the question in the middle of such chaotic situation.
「I ask thee. What do thou wish to do with thy beloved at holiday?」
──The thing we can do in Midgard is limited. The outside is also hot…….
I thought for a bit before answering at the same timing with everyone.
「I want to leisurely watch movie inside my room.」
Iris and Tia energetically answered.
「I want to swim together at sea!」
「Tia will make a large castle at beach!」
Ren and Shion answered a bit shyly.
「……Napping together.」
「I want tO Get lAp piLlow……fRom pApa.」
Vritra and Charlotte answered confidently.
「Wasting time playing game is the advanced and safe amusement of human. I know this without a doubt.」

「Of course it's girls' watching! Observing beautiful maidens together and discussing them……that will be the supreme holiday!」
Even though it was a common question where it shouldn't be strange if some of us had the same answer, everyone's answer was splendidly all over the place.
And then the Agony Artisans were put on us and we went through the penalty game simultaneously.
「━━Guuh!?」
「Hauh!? I-it hurts, help me Mononobee~!」
However everyone else was looking puzzled while Iris and I were screaming.
「Eh? Tia is completely alright.」
「Nn, it just feels a bit ticklish.」
「i'M alSo fIne. Papa aNd otHers, arE fuNny.」
「To be in agony from just this much……isn't it a bit pathetic of you as my comrade?」
「Fumu, it seems our feet are too small for this massaging device to work on us. No, it doesn't mean that I have kiddy body figure okay? My friend, be careful to not make that misunderstanding.」
Tia, Ren, Shion, Vritra, and Charlotte were looking at our agony with a letdown feeling.
Stomp, stomp, stomp━━.
Footsteps resounded at that timing.
I raised my face while enduring the intense pain. There I saw Firill calmly walking this way with an envelope in hand.
「Fufu, with this everyone has gotten a turn right? This is a ceremony that I started by my own initiative, so I have been waiting until after everyone has finished. Now━━it's finally my turn, Mononobe-kun.」
Firill came up on the stage with a bold smile. She was about to hand the envelope to King Alfred but……her movement suddenly stopped.
Firill looked around at the previous challengers who had received the penalty game and sighed.
「Haa……but, even if I win with this, somehow it will look like I have fixed the game. Then━━yep, I have decided. Let's make this question the last and answer it with everyone here like just now. But I'll still definitely make Mononobe-kun into my prince even with that.」
Because of that proposal, all of us stood in front of King Alfred.
「……Firill, are you alright with this?」
I asked the girl who stood beside me. She nodded with a smile.
「Of course. I want to fight fair and square with everyone. I don't want to be thought as cheating.」
Certainly this ceremony was something that Firill schemed, so it was also possible for her to set so that she got the easy question. Firill chose this method so that she wouldn't be suspected with that.

「Got it. Then no matter what kind of question come, I'll answer with what is in my mind without trying to match it with anyone else.」
「Yep, me too.」
Firill nodded.
Everyone heard our talk and also nodded in agreement.
Seeing that our preparation was finished, King Alfred asked the last question solemnly.
「I ask thee. What is it that thou wish to protect the most in this moment?」
The moment I heard that question, a lot of things came to mind.
I hesitated of what to choose from there, but I immediately realized that all those things could only be described with one word.
That was why I honestly said that word.
.
「──Now.」
.
Then our voices overlapped.
I didn't hear any other word.
I looked around in surprise. There I saw everyone was also standing open mouthed.
And then, the one who was the most dumbfounded was King Alfred who asked the question.
──Could it be, everyone spoke the same answer?
What was the result of the ceremony in this case? Don't tell me, it would be a marriage with everyone…….
Our gazes gathered on the witness King Alfred.
「…………」
He wordlessly glanced at his daughter Firill. While we were bewildered, it was only Firill who was staring at her father with sparkling eyes.
Sweat trickled down from King Alfred's forehead when faced with his daughter's gaze that was filled with expectation.
「……I planned to concede very, very reluctantly and recognized Firill's marriage with Mononobe-kun but, a marriage with this number of people at the same time is……there is just no precedent of it……when we proclaim it, if it's not in the way that the people can accept……Firill's standing will also……in the worst case the trust toward the royal family will……」
He was murmuring while clutching his head.
It seemed that this was outside his expectation. Then Helen-san approached King Alfred and whispered something into his ear.
The moment he heard it, King Alfred made a taken aback look and straightened his posture.
And then he suddenly swished his mantel and turned his back on us. He solemnly declared.
「With this, the ancient Elria style marriage ceremony, the complete hard mode version is concluded.」

We held our breath waiting what kind of verdict would be handed down, but King Alfred slowly walked away without saying anything else.

He was walking straight toward the venue's exit──.

「F-father! Where are you going!?」

When Firill yelled in panic, he stopped walking in front of the exit and turned his face this way.

「……Listen well Firill. In order to validate the ceremony that we held this time, there is one thing that has to be done no matter what.」

「Eeeh!? Lies! I never heard about anything like that! Father said that this is the complete version!」

「I-I'm not lying! I just remembered after Helen told me! If from the result of the ceremony a commoner is going to be added into the royal family, that person will also have to receive the trial to be a royalty!」

There his sharp gaze pierced me.

「Mononobe-kun──if you wish to validate the marriage based on this ceremony, I shall have you overcome the king's trial at Elria Kingdom! I shall wait for your arrival anytime! Then, farewell!」

King Alfred said that and walked outside. Helen-san also bowed to us and followed behind him.

Firill saw off the back of the two and clenched her fists in frustration.

「Gununu……father really doesn't know when to give up. Even though going out of Midgard is also not something easy……」

However Firill shook her head as though to switch her mood and turned her gaze at us.

「Everyone, our fight has only just begun! Let's combine our strength and work hard together-!!」

Firill raised her clenched fist and yelled.

「I-I don't really get it but I'll do my besttt!!」

「Tia will do her besttt!」

「dO Our bEst!」

Iris, Tia, and Shion answered Firill's order, but everyone else dropped their shoulders in exasperation.

「……This result is just as I thought but, this commotion is still not over with this huh.」

Mitsuki sighed. Lisa placed her hand on her shoulder consolingly.

「Your schedule get messed up again with this. I'll help with decorating the hall.」

「I'll also help. My body feels really light. Perhaps it's thanks to that feet acupuncture massage.」

Ariella jumped up and down on the spot. Shinomiya-sensei also turned her gaze to her own feet seeing that.

「Certainly……the swelling in my feet is removed.」

「It was really agonizing that it made you fainted, but it looks like the result is also worth the pain.」

Jeanne also rubbed her feet in surprise.

「……Even so, the king's trial huh. It has a really nice ring to it for some reason. I'm getting a bit excited.」
While that was going on, Charlotte seemed curious with King Alfred's words.
「Nn. It has romance in it.」
Ren agreed. Vritra also nodded deeply.
「I'm also interested. The ceremony that human created is unexpectedly interesting. I shall participate too if there is no danger.」
Kili smiled wryly while murmuring.
「Setting aside the trial, I want to get outside Midgard too……perhaps I'll help out with that.」
Seeing everyone like that made me thought.
That this was none other than the "now" that we wished to protect━━.
.

◆ Christmas Epilogue

At 25 December, the last day of Christmas party.
The festivities in the hall ended at evening. As the executive committee member, I got busy with cleaning up the aftermath.
However after I got to a point where I could rest and looked around, I didn’t find my classmates who should be helping me anywhere.
When I asked the school staffs who were carrying out the baggage, they told me that they returned to the classroom not long ago.
They must have decided to leave after seeing that the number of workers here was sufficient, but it felt a bit lonely that they didn’t say anything to me.
──Perhaps I have done something that angered them.
I tried looking back, but nothing really came to mind.
I was too busy that I came late to the dance party where I promised to dance with everyone of Brunhilde class. The time I had to fulfill my individual promise with each of them also got shortened.
──I better apologize properly one more time to them.
The staffs said that I could leave the rest to them, so I exited the hall and headed to my classroom.
Right now each class was holding a modest party of their own in their own classroom.
Our homeroom teacher Shinomiya-sensei was eagerly making her special yakisoba for Christmas.
I hoped that there was a portion left behind for me while I walked through the corridor in a fast walk. I came until near the classroom.
□Eh……?□
But for some reason the classroom’s light was turned off. I also couldn’t hear any sound or voice.
□Could it be, they are having the party at the lodging house……?□
Even though I was wondering whether I was mistaking the place, I decided to check inside the classroom just in case.
Garararararara──!
The sound of door opening echoed inside the quiet building. Right after that, the room in front of me turned bright.
.
Pan pan pan-!
.

Explosive sound resounded at the same time.
I almost reflexively crouched because I thought it was gunshot sound, but I immediately realized that it wasn’t that kind of situation.
Everyone was there inside the bright classroom with a smile.
They were wearing cone hats in Christmas color and crackers in their hands.
And then everyone yelled together.
.
「Happy birthday!!」
.
Aa, come to think of it that was today.
Even though I remembered that until the party started, that fact had slipped off my head before I realized it throughout all the busy schedules.
A large serving of yakisoba and a big birthday cake were placed on the table.
The inside of my eyes suddenly turned hot for some reason when I saw that.
I held down the emotion that immediately welled up inside me. Even so something still leaked out slightly. I wiped it with the back of my hand──and faced toward everyone.
And then I replied to them with a smile.
「Thank you. Merry Christmas.」

Chapter 3 – Merry Christmas
–Newly Written Short Story–

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◆ Christmas Panic (First)

A large helicopter landed on the heliport with a loud sound and strong wind.
A transport ship docked at the port while splashing white sea spray.
I──Mononobe Yuu was standing at the edge of the wharf, staring at the visitors to Midgard.
Today was 22 December. The first day of Midgard Christmas party that was going to be held for four days.
Although, the students of Midgard including me still weren't in the party mood at all.
The party by the students and for the students would be held in the latter two days.
The first two days would be "diplomatic event" that was opened for the invited outsiders.
Boarding the ships and helicopters were influential people and press from various countries, Midgard's investors, relatives of "D", and inspectors from Asgard and NIFL.
They were showed around to have a look of the academy in general, and then they got invited to the party venue in a decorated underground training ground.
There the headmaster Charlotte should be busy running around doing various political negotiations to maintain Midgard's safety and self-autonomy.
But we the members of Brunhilde class also couldn't treat it as other people's problem. We also attended this party and received interview from various press members.
I wasn't really confident whether I could speak well in front of television camera.
However I should be able to manage somehow.
It should be fine if I simply said what was in my mind. Even now my chest was filled with gratitude toward the people who lent us "light" in that battle.
The bigger problem was──.
「Captain!」
I heard a voice calling me from the heliport. It seemed that they had arrived.
I made a heavy sigh and resolved myself before heading there.

The girl wearing boy uniform, Jeanne Hortensia was waving her hand at me. She was my classmate who also belonged to Brunhilde class, but she was my subordinate when we were in NIFL. That was why Jeanne still called me captain even now.
「Yeah, I'm going there!」
I replied with a loud voice so that it wouldn't be drowned by the sound of helicopter's motor and hurried to the heliport that was located beside the port.
And then the large helicopter's hatch opened at the same time when I reached Jeanne's location.
Coming down from there was a tall man and seven boys.
All of them were wearing NIFL's military uniform. They were radiating a dangerous atmosphere that didn't suit this peaceful southern island.
「──Hello Second Lieutenant Mononobe. Thanks for coming this far to welcome us.」
The man smiled slightly when he saw me and talked to me.
「Long time no see Major Loki. This is because you acted as you pleased during the school festival and I met a horrible experience after that. This time I'll watch over you closely from start to finish.」
I replied to my former superior──Loki Jotunheim with a sarcastic tone.
「Fuh……that means you are my escort. That's great. With this my Sleipnir has regained its complete form.」
Major Loki glanced briefly toward Jeanne before smiling in delight.
Then the boys standing behind him all saluted simultaneously.
.
「Captain Mononobe! Long time no see!!」
.
I responded with a wry smile toward the straightforward gaze of my former subordinates.
「……I'm glad that you guys are also looking well.」
When I saw them the last time, they were swallowed by authority and lost their ego. However right now each of them was showing a human expression.
「But, let me make this clear──I'm not planning to return to Sleipnir. I'm Brunhilde class's Mononobe Yuu till the end. Of course that includes Jeanne too.」
I grabbed the shoulder of Jeanne who was observing the situation from the side and pulled her closer. Her face turned red, even so she nodded her head.
「Y-yes, it's just as captain say!」
Jeanne declared so, but Major Loki turned a meaningful gaze my way with his long slit eyes.
「That's too bad. However Second Lieutenant Mononobe──I intentionally bring them here because I think that you will need them.」
「What do you mean……by that?」

I frowned and asked back. Major Loki shrugged and dodged the question.
「You will understand soon. First you can fulfill your current role.」
I reluctantly returned to my work by his urging.
「──Then please follow me. I'll show everyone the currently peaceful Midgard.」
.
Right now the visitors from outside were showed the figures of the students working hard in preparing the party.
The hall that would become the main venue for the third and fourth days, and the classrooms of each class where the after party would be held.
There the "D" girls living in Midgard were decorating the places with their utmost effort.
Jeanne and I brought Major Loki and the others to go around each classroom.
「This is Ortlinde classroom.」
「──I see.」
However Major Loki only gave such interested reply even though I was showing him around.
The members of Sleipnir who were walking behind us were also getting excited with a completely unrelated topic.
「However to think Jeanne is actually a woman.」
「But, thinking back now there was a lot of strange things from her.」
「……She absolutely wouldn't change in front of other people.」
「I thought she was a strange fellow, but I paid it no mind because this squad is full of eccentrics.」
「Who are you calling eccentric!」
「I think it's you yourself if you have self-awareness though.」
「I have absolute confidence that I'm not an eccentric so please don't include mee~」
Jeanne who became the center of the topic was warning them with a slightly fed up look.
「You guys, it's fine to make a racket like that but──don't you dare ogling at Midgard's female students. They don't really have immunity toward male. It also became a big commotion when I transferred into here.」
They nodded at Jeanne's instruction, but to be honest we already became the center of attention even without doing anything.
When we came in front of a classroom, the girls would keep working while observing us from the corner of their eyes and whispering to each other with low voices.
At first I thought they were looking at the members of Sleipnir who were males of similar age with them, but I noticed that wasn't the case.
「──Look, that person.」
「Ah……as I thought, at the school festival, he and Yuu-sama──」
「Really? Then that rumor……」
「Yuu-sama who was dressed as woman went to the rooftop──」

It seemed that they were looking toward Major Loki and me.
Major Loki also came for inspection at the school festival, so perhaps there were students who remembered him.
「……Certainly those two are, for some reason──」
「Hurry and contact President Firill!」
「No, I'm in Jeanne-sama faction till the end……」
「But by any chance……the relationship map from here on will──」
My back got goosebumps from the fragments of conversation that I picked up.
I didn't really get what they were talking about, but my instinct was pleading to me that it would be better to not stay here for long.
「Major Loki, I'll show you the next classroom.」
When I prompted Major Loki, shrill cheers *kyaa* rose from inside the classroom for some reason.
I sped up my steps to run away from those voices.



.
The party for outside visitors that was held in the decorated underground training ground ended without any particular problem.
I believed that the media coverage toward Brunhilde class was also done well.
When reading letter that was directed toward the people of the world, Iris bit her tongue many times, but that was also a warming scene.
However there was no way the first day of the party would end peacefully like that.
That was something that I knew since Loki Jotunheim landed on Midgard with Sleipnir in tow.
「──Now then, Second Lieutenant Mononobe. I wonder if you are able to determine your “enemy”?」
I took a break at the corner of the venue after the media coverage. Major Loki approached me there and threw me that question with a lowered voice.
「You mean the guys making suspicious movements during the party? It seems that Sleipnir dealt with them though……」
I also kept looking forward while replying back with a small voice.
「Yeah, they are spies that sneaked in by slipping among the invitees. We apprehended them when they sneaked out of the party venue to try something with the electricity generator. However this won’t be the end of it.」
「What’s their objective?」
「──Capture of “D” who belong to Brunhilde class.」
「I see.」
I replied shortly. Major Loki looked at me with a surprised face seeing my reaction.
「You are calmer than I expected.」
「Because I have thought that something like this might happen.」
And I had decided since a long time ago. That I would protect this ordinary days from any enemy.
「Atla has deciphered their communication cipher just now. It seems they are planning to assault your lodging house tonight.」
「──I’ll turn the table on them.」
「You’re mistaken, Second Lieutenant Mononobe. That won’t be insufficient. You should crush the crawling out insects thoroughly without leaving any behind. By yourself you will have no option other than focusing on defending your base, but right now you have eight powerful legs with you.」
Major Loki turned a sharp gaze at me. I sent back a bitter expression at him.

「……I’m not going to count of this as a debt you know?」
「Of course. After all we are also obtaining your cooperation. Now──Fafnir. Feel free to ride Sleipnir and go in a rampage.」
.
The night was filled with radiant stars.
I was taking rein of Sleipnir at the empty lot behind the lodging house.
「──All hands, report the situation.」
I questioned through the small communicator on my ear. Then replies immediately came back.
「This is Lancelot. The defense of clock tower headquarters successful~. Three enemies secured.」
「Otr here. Their “upper” is secured.」
「……Nataku. Encountering enemies inside the forest. Securing one. The enemies are using high precision optical camouflage. Be cautious.」
「This is Sigurd. No abnormality at the southern coastline.」
「It’s Robin. The enemy’s electronic warfare personnel neutralized. I have poured in Atla-san’s special virus into their terminal, so there is no worry for Midgardsorm boss.」
「Kunato here. Enemy’s escape boat confirmed at the north coast. Two enemies on standby are neutralized.」
「This is Jeanne. Captain, one group confirmed advancing through the thick forest at the northeast.」
I immediately gave the next order after hearing Jeanne’s report.
「Roger. Regin, go around behind the enemies and cut off their path of retreat. Jeanne, cover him up with sniping when the enemies get into open space.」
「This is Regin. Roger.」
「Jeanne here, mission acknowledged.」
I finished the communication and turned my focus toward the thick forest surrounding the open space.
「It looks like things are going smoothly, Second Lieutenant Mononobe.」
Major Loki who was leaning on the lodging house’s wall while observing my command talked to me in enjoyment.
「──Yes. But, who are the enemies? Optical camouflage is still not applicable even in NIFL……and they have even prepared to turn off Midgardsomr……」
Major Loki responded with a smile of implication at my gaze of suspicion toward him.
「They are a group that got cocky after getting their hand on a legacy.」
「……A legacy?」
「Yeah──the legacy of an ancient civilization that possess a different technological system than Atlantis……they excavated a “ship” called Agarta from deep underground. Their cutting edge equipment is the benefit from that.」
「What……」
I held my breath. Major Loki shrugged slightly at me.

「Don’t worry. In the end Agarta is just the wreckage of “those who failed to arrive”. They weren’t at the level of Atlantis, our ancestor who travelled through the distant space. In fact, we have almost completely suppressed their base. The attack this time is their last chance to revive from their brink of death.」
「Then, this matter will be resolved if all of them are captured.」
I sighed in relieve while confirming.
「That’s how it is. But, it will be better if you at least keep this in mind. This world, the space is extremely vast. Many threats that surpassed our imagination are lurking out there.」
Major Loki narrowed his gaze and told me with a lowered voice.
「For example──there is this record within the database that Atla salvaged from Agarta. In this universe, there are seven existences of heinous demons who are called as “deadly sins” or perhaps “fallen creators”.」
「Fallen, creators……」
I knew about the words of creator. Major Loki watched my expression and turned his eyes toward the space and muttered.
「Yes, Angolmois that all of you defeated is one of those. The deadly sin “Gluttony”. Well, in this vast universe, the possibility of us encountering another deadly sins in our lifetime is extremely low. However, the unexpected can possibly occur anytime.」
「…………」
I responded wordlessly to his words.
「Second Lieutenant Mononobe. Peace is something that you win with effort. It’s something that cannot be protected unless you continue to fight. Even if you yourself aren’t fighting, there is someone somewhere fighting. Also you never know who will turn into your enemy.」
There his bottomless cold gaze pierced me.
「I will continue to fight in order to make mankind’s survival continue. When the peace that you are trying to protect become an obstacle to that, I will surely become your enemy once more.」
I accepted his gaze head on and nodded deeply.
「──Yes, I understand. But, at the very least that time isn’t now.」
When I warded off Major Loki’s chilling killing intent with a smile, he too sported a small smile.
「I guess. At the very least, right now is──」
And then both Major Loki and I pulled out a gun simultaneously.
Toward the “unseen enemies” that appeared inside the jungle.
The precision of the optical camouflage was really high and it was impossible to perceive the attacker’s form with naked eye. However all my senses other than my sight were alarming that the enemy was there.
Gunshots rang out over each other.
Like that──my peace was continuing.
.

◆ Christmas Panic (End)

「Fuu……it’s finally over……」
The second day of the party.
Major Loki and Sleipnir took away the attackers that were captured last night to NIFL. We had also seen off the other visitors from the party venue just now.
The training ground that was decorated to be party venue was now completely deserted.
The noisy atmosphere filling this place until just now felt like a lie now.
I sat down on a seat near a table where empty glasses were left untouched and stared in a daze toward the tall ceiling. Then I heard light footsteps approaching.
「Thanks for your hard work Nii-san. However the real thing will only start after this for us.」
When I turned my gaze, Mitsuki was there standing in her uniform with a wry smile.
Last night, while I was taking on the attackers outside the lodging house, Mitsuki and others were also preparing inside the building in case the unthinkable happened. In the end that kind of situation didn’t occur, but the ill effects from spending our time like that affected our preparation today. We only barely finished our works.
「……Yeah, I know. It will be the party for the students starting tomorrow. That’s where the student council president and executive committee president need to work hard.」
I raised my arms high and stretched. I pulled myself together and stood up. Fatigue was accumulating in me, but I still couldn’t rest.
Then the other members of Brunhilde class also gathered here.
「Mononobe! I’ll also help out!」
Running this way with her long silver hair bouncing around was Iris who looked like she still had excessive energy left.
Ariella who was following behind her was looking at Iris with a respectful gaze.
「Iris is amazing……I’m already worn out here. I never want to go through another interview anymore.」
Certainly Ariella’s face was showing deep color of exhaustion.
Midgard’s common students didn’t attend this party, but we were the exceptions. Our faces and names were exposed during the broadcast asking

for help from people all over the world. All of us were going through the interview in our uniform.
「You can just deal with something like that half-heartedly. It will be just your loss if you respond to them seriously.」
The one who said that was Kili who looked like she still had some leeway. However Lisa immediately interrupted from beside her.
「Wait a second Kili-san. Isn't that rude toward everyone who lent us their strength in the final battle if you act like that?」
「What are you saying. We saved the world in exchange of them lending their strength. All our debts should be cleared with that. Our positions with each other are equal. There is no need for us to act servile to them.」
「I'm not telling you to act servile toward them. This is a matter of sincerity──」
Lisa and Kili started arguing.
But this was something usual so I didn't really do anything to stop them and talked to the approaching Ren.
「Were you able to talk with Chief Miyazawa Ren?」
Miyazawa Kengo, the chief of Asgard's far east branch's first laboratory and also Ren's father showed his face in this party too.
「……Nn. I didn't. But, I punched his back hard.」
Ren said that and smiled in satisfaction.
「I see, you did great.」
I also laughed and patted Ren's fluffy red hair. She narrowed her eyes pleasantly.
「Aah! Yuu! Tia too Tia too!」
Tia also pestered me after seeing that, so I put my other hand on Tia's head and patted her.
Tia was wearing hat the whole time during the party. Her hair was slightly damp from sweat because of that. Her horns looked a bit too conspicuous, so they were hidden during the interview.
There I felt a light impact on my waist.
When I turned around, Shion was looking up at me as though she wanted to say something.
Jeanne and Vritra were also there behind her.
These three didn't have their faces and names broadcasted during the final battle, so they didn't participate in the party and waited somewhere else.
「Captain, thanks for all of your hard work. Shion couldn't have captain pay attention to her yesterday and today, so it looks like she is feeling a bit lonely.」
Jeanne looked at Shion who was clinging on me wordlessly and said that.
Vritra also nodded with a tired look.
「I have kept her company all this time. Thou better be grateful.」
「……Papa.」
Shion pleaded with her gaze.

But right now I had both my hands full even if I wanted to look after her. As I pondered about what to do, Tia grabbed my hand and lifted it up.
「Yuu, Tia is an Onee-san, so Tia will give her turn to Shion!」
Hearing that Ren also parted from me reluctantly.
「Nn……me too.」
「Thanks you two.」
I thanked the two of them before facing Shion and combed her purple hair with my fingers.
「I'm sorry that I made you felt lonely like that. Today we are going to decorate the hall after this……can you also help Shion?」
Unlike the administration work until now, Shion should also participate if it was a decorating work, so I made that suggestion.
Hearing that Shion's face brightened joyfully and she nodded enthusiastically.
「Yes! I'lL heLp oUt With paPa's woRk!」
Everyone around us smiled seeing Shion's happiness.
Shinomiya-sensei and Headmaster Charlotte also came toward us while that happened.
「Mononobe Yuu. Us the staffs will tidy up this place. All of you can quickly return to your actual work. Shion──do your best in helping them okay?」
Shinomiya-sensei put her hand on Shion's shoulder and encouraged her.
「My friend, and young ladies! Our public appeal can be said as successful thanks to all of you. With this there is no need for us to care about external attention for a while. Go relax and enjoy the party in the remaining two days.」
Charlotte was wearing a gorgeous dress that was fitting for the master of Midgard. She thanked our effort with a serious face.
But her expression immediately loosened up after that. She quickly approached me and whispered into my ear.
「──Fu fu fu, actually my friend. I have prepared extremely bold and beautiful dresses for the maidens. You can look forward to tomorrow. Also, don't forget to take some commemorative photographs alright? I too wish to appreciate their figures leisurely later after all.」
「You never changed at all Char……well, I get it.」
I nodded with a wry smile and started walking toward the exit but──I suddenly noticed.
「Eh? Come to think of it, where is Firill?」
I looked around but for some reason I couldn't find Firill anywhere.
Firill was also attending the party just now.
As a princess of Erlia Principality, she wasn't only dealing with the press, she was also exchanging greeting with representatives of various countries, so she must be even more tired than us.
「……She isn't fainted somewhere isn't she?」
Lisa heard my mutter and looked around too with worry.
「I'll go search Firill-chan!」

Iris said that and broke into a run, but then the area suddenly turned dark. And then the stage at the back of the venue was illuminated with dazzling light.
「W-what in the world is going on?」
Ariella let out a bewildered voice while we turned our focus to the stage. Then a man clad in a red mantel and a crown walked out from the corner of the stage.
「Ah! That's Firill's Otou-san!」
Tia raised her voice when she saw him.
「King Alfred……?」
Shinomiya-sensei looked like she also didn't understand the situation. She stared at the king of Elria Principality with a puzzled expression.
He was also participating in the party just now, but he wasn't dressed in such outfit that really screamed his status as "king" like that.
When the formally dressed King Alfred stopped walking at the center of the stage, he turned toward us.
There Charlotte asked him a question as our representative.
「What's the matter King Alfred? Is there perhaps any problem with your private ship?」
There was some distance until the stage, but the venue was quiet so her voice traversed clearly.
He looked slightly awkward and shook his head toward that question.
「No, that's not the case. Headmaster Charlotte……actually I was asked for a request by my daughter……and so I'm delaying my departure slightly.」
After he answered like that, a girl in white dress appeared from the corner of the stage.
「Yep, I asked father to be a witness.」
「Firill……?」
I gulped.
That girl was Firill who we had just been looking for. Furthermore looking closer, that dress…….
「Waa! That's wedding dress-!!」
Tia cheered.
Yes, that was undoubtedly a bridal costume. Come to think of it I was so busy and forgot, but Firill once said that she was going to do something in this party…….
Firill looked this way and our gazes met.
「Fufu──Mononobe-kun, this time has finally arrived.」
Firill muttered that. When she arrived beside King Alfred, she twirled on the spot to display her dress before she took the mike that was still left on the stage.
「Everyoneee! Now the ancient Elria marriage ceremony──the complete hard mode version shall begiiinnn!!」
Firill raised her arm high and yelled.

However we could only watch with our jaw hanging down. Firill’s voice echoed inside the venue in vain.
「Geez……everyone, what’s with that cold reaction. Even though it’s finally our chance to marry with Mononobe-kun.」
Firill puffed her cheeks in dissatisfaction on the stage.
Lisa came back to her senses and stepped forward when she heard those words.
「F-Firill-san! Marriage you said……just what in the world do you mean by that!?」
「I mean exactly what I said, Lisa. What we are going to do after this is the ceremony for marriage that was once practiced in Elria Principality. The couple who finished this ceremony would be able to marry no matter what kind of status or age difference existed between them.」
Firill answered like that and looked toward King Alfred beside her.
He nodded with an expression that looked somewhat resigned. Most likely he had gotten into a lot of arguments with Firill until things reached this point.



「──Indeed, certainly Elria Principality has that kind of old custom. It hasn't been abolished, so it's still in effect even now. This ceremony is considered valid if a witness from the royal family is present. That's why I changed into formal attire like this.」
King Alfred said that while showing his crown and mantel that looked like historical items.
Firill smiled in satisfaction from her father's guarantee.
「Yep, that's how it is. But don't worry. I'm not selfishly trying to marry with Mononobe-kun. Everyone in this place all have a chance. Of course that also include the headmaster and Shinomiya-sensei too.」
「Wwha-!?」
Charlotte's face reddened and she jerked back, while Shinomiya-sensei was also showing agitation.
「M-Mononobe Yuu and me? D-don't say something stupid. He and I are student and teacher──」
And then Tia raised her hand without paying attention to the flustered two women.
「Tia is still not in the age that can marry though, is it alright?」
Firill nodded with a smile to that question.
「Of course. It's also all okay for Tia, even Shion is fine.」
Firill gave a thumb up and her guarantee.
「Then Tia will do her best-!」
「MarRyIng wIth pApa……I doN't reallY gEt It bUt, i aLso wanT To Do iT.」
The two got on board with Firill's proposal and showed their willingness, but that wasn't the case with everyone else.
「Firill-san! Please don't arrange thing as you please! I won't allow something like marriage with Nii-san!」
Mitsuki declared bluntly, but Firill smiled like a villain and took out a switch from her chest.
「Mitsuki, I don't plan to argue with you here. Because the situation is already arranged. Your options are──participating in this ceremony or not, that's all.」
Firill said that and pushed the switch.
gogogogogogo──!
A low pitched sound came from above.
Looking up, the hatch at the ceiling was opening up.
Originally this place was a training ground, so it also had several delivery entrances like that.
「W-what is starting……」
Iris was staring up to the ceiling anxiously.

Firill’s voice reverberated there.
「A looong time ago, in Elria Principality, when lovers who originally couldn’t marry because of their background wished to do so──the king imposed a tribulation on them to give them a chance so they could marry in a special circumstance.」
Firill spoke of the origin of the ceremony with a solemn tone.
「The trial’s tasks are to shoot down a bird that is released to the sky with a bow, and to answer the question in the letter that is tied to the bird’s leg. The lovers will be able to marry if their answer to that question is the same with each other, and if not they will be pushed into the great waterfall of Elria.」
Everyone’s face stiffened from that dangerous explanation.
Firill smiled and shook her head seeing our reaction.
「It’s fine, don’t worry. Because I have arranged the content of the trial to suit the modern era. It will be too pitiful for the birds if we have to kill it just for this, and there is also no waterfall or the like in Midgard.」
Right after Firill said that, small drones flew in from the ceiling’s hatch one after another.
The drones flew around freely with the four propellers attached to their frame. Each of them had a small envelope attached.
「Look, those drones are the substitute for birds. Aim at them with a paint gun. They will automatically land if their sensor gets dirtied. Ah, you can find the guns under the table.」
Ren lifted up the table cloth and peered below after she heard that.
「……Nn. It’s really there.」
Ren took out a plastic paint gun that looked like toy. Jeanne narrowed her eyes seeing that.
「No matter the gun, this condition is really advantageous for me…… perhaps captain and me will──n-no, even without that, as long as I can be at captain’s side……」
Jeanne clutched her head and began to worry, but Firill added more to her explanation there.
「As for the waterfall’s replacement, there is a hard penalty game waiting for you okayyy. The important thing isn’t shooting down the drone, but matching your answer with Mononobe-kun. You will be able to keep taking the challenge as many as you want, but you might not be able to move for a while after getting the penalty you know?」
Firill smiled boldly and swept aside the skirt of her dress. She then pulled out two paint balls from the holsters on her thighs.
「Then the explanation is over-! Aaand, start!」
Firill declared the start of the ceremony and quickly lifted up her two guns. She aimed at a drone and fired.
「Wai──Firill-san! I still haven’t accepted this!」
Mitsuki tried to stop her in panic, but beside her Lisa took out a paint gun from under the table. She frowned seeing that.

「L-Lisa-san, you are going to do it?」
「The only way to stop Firill-san is by finishing this ceremony ahead of her. After all it's the winner's liberty whether they are really going to marry or not.」
Lisa said that and gallantly aimed her gun, but there she glanced briefly toward me.
「But, it's not like there is really any reason to refuse if he doesn't dislike it though……」
「Wait, as I thought you are just planning to participate normally! Enough━━I understand. In that case I'll protect Nii-san till the end!」
Mitsuki also got defiant and took out a paint gun.
That became the start for everyone to reach under the table too.
「Err, well……might as well. I don't really want to hold a weapon but, if it's just a toy gun like this……」
Ariella muttered something that sounded like excuse while gripping her paint gun. Ren too had already secured two guns.
「I-I'll do my best too. I want to try, doing something like this. Onee-chan, teach me how.」
Ren asked Ariella the way to shoot the paint gun. Tia also came running seeing that.
「Tia also want to be taught!」
「Ariella-chan, me too!」
Even Iris approached her. Ariella sighed seeing that.
「No, we are more or less rivals here though……well, it's fine I guess. Perhaps it's better to see this as a surprise event from Firill and just enjoy it. After all in the end it depends on Mononobe-kun how it will turn out.」
Ariella relaxed her shoulders and glanced at me for an instant. Then she began lecturing everyone.
Shion also ran toward Jeanne with a paint gun in hand.
「mAma, tEach Me.」
「……Y-yeah, got it. Yosh, let's us protect captain!」
The worrying Jeanne also resolved herself and clenched her fist.
「I don't really care about thing like marriage but……it's boring to just watch, so I'll join in. You are going to do it too right, Okaa-sama?」
Kili said that and gave one of the guns she took out to Vritra.
「Fumu……I'm also not interested with the law that human created but, this event looks like fun. It also doesn't look dangerous, so I shall participate.」
Vritra stared in interest at the paint gun while nodding.
And then Charlotte and Shinomiya-sensei also took a gun after hesitating.
「Haruka, in the end I'm only participating in order to help my friend you know? By no means I'm seriously trying to marry him you know? It's true you know?」
Charlotte made sure of that many times with Shinomiya-sensei.
「Y-yes, I understand. I too am only participating in order to settle down this commotion quickly. With King Alfred's involvement, putting a halt to the

ceremony will make him lose face. Besides……t-teacher marrying a student is just……n-not good for the public moral.」
Shinomiya-sensei nodded, but she was strangely minding my presence.
「…………What should I do here?」
While everyone started aiming at the drones, I who was left alone was at a loss.
I was undoubtedly someone concerned in this situation, but I didn't know what should I do.
There Firill in her wedding dress and two guns in hands approached me.
「Mononobe-kun, when someone shot down a drone, go with her to father. And then father will read up the question. Answer it together with the girl at the count of three.」
I sent a protesting gaze at Firill who explained that in a rapid talk.
「I'm really going to get married if our answer match?」
「Yep, a legal one based on Elria Principality's law. If possible I want to marry with Mononobe-kun. I'm wearing this dress with that intention but……I won't complain even if someone else win.」
It was a dignified line that was filled with resolve, but I noticed the scheming light flickering inside her eyes.
「And, your true aim is?」
Firill smiled mischievously when I prompted her.
「Fufu──surely the other girls won't be able to accept it no matter who end up the winner. But if the marriage cannot be annulled, their only choice is to get into the same position right? In that case they won't have any choice but to get on the harem plan that I proposed before.」
Firill clenched her fist and spoke of her ambition.
「You are really unwavering Firill……」
Firill nodded with a smile seeing me sighing.
「Of course, a maiden's determination can't be shaken that easily. But……it's another story if Mononobe-kun doesn't want to you know?」
There Firill showed a slightly timid face and continued speaking hesitantly.
「You see, in the original ceremony, people who lost to their fear of getting pushed to the waterfall would shoot their partner. With that the ceremony would be called off.」
「……That's brutal.」
「Well, it's an ancient rite after all. But this time it's also possible to retire. If Mononobe-kun shot us with paint gun……this ceremony will finish. What will you do?」
Firill spread her hands wide open as though to say that I could shoot her anytime.
I had decided that I would absolutely "make everyone happy".
To be honest, I couldn't say with certainty that Firill's plan would be best for that. However──.
I sighed deeply after looking the way Firill stared fixedly at me.
「……I won't shoot.」

Firill looked relieved when I said that, but then she immediately showed a puzzled expression.
「Thank god──but, why?」
She asked me. I pointed at the pure white wedding dress that Firill was wearing.
「There is no way I can dirty that dress. Right……putting aside whether we are going to marry here or not, there is something that I gotta say.」
I scratched my head and told her while holding back my embarrassment.
「Firill, that dress look really good on you. You are pretty.」
「Fueh……!?」
Firill let out a strange voice and her face instantly turned bright red. She flapped both her hands up and down.
「Wait a second Mononobe-kun! That's no good! Foul!」
Firill turned her back on me to hide her red face and raised her gun.
「…………Geez, because of Mononobe-kun's fault my motivation is welling up more than necessary. Now I don't think that it's fine whoever win. I'll absolutely win this.」
Firill declared with a strong tone and rushed toward the swarm of drones flying around inside the party venue.
「──I didn't shoot by my own will, so I can't complain anymore now.」
No matter the result, I had decided to go along with this ceremony and walked toward King Alfred.
However before I arrived at the stage, a joyful voice reverberated.
「Captain! I did it!」
Looking there, a drone that was dirtied by paint ball landed in front of Jeanne.
As expected, Jeanne was the first one with her shooting skill that was far above the rest.
Jeanne took off the white envelope attached on the drone and ran toward me.
「U-umm, captain. I'm, err, not really wishing for something outrageous like marriage but……if a winner is needed in order to end this ceremony, I, I'll──」
I smiled at Jeanne who was talking with a flustered tone. I grabbed her arm and dragged her to the stage.
「Got it, that's a big help. Then let's go to Alfred-san's place.」
I said that and got up on the stage together with Jeanne. I hesitantly handed the envelope to King Alfred who was staring at the venue with a distant look.
I didn't know what he thought about a historical ceremony of his country getting arranged like this and how his daughter's marriage was hanging on it, but he looked at me and smiled softly.
「Sorry that my daughter's selfishness dragged you in like this. As expected I couldn't refuse when she said that she is asking for a reward for saving the world. But──even though we are calling it marriage, it's more like a

special measure that only apply inside Elria Principality. So just do it leisurely.」
「──Yes, I understand.」
I was relieved by those words, but there his expression turned grave.
「However, it will be a different story in case it's a marriage with my daughter. Mononobe-kun, you should resolve yourself.」
「R-roger that.」
I was overwhelmed by a father's pressure and nodded.
「Very good. Then let's begin the ceremony. Now I shall ask thee.」
He took out a letter from the envelope and read the content solemnly. Jeanne and I gulped.
「When taking a bath, which part of thy body thou start washing from?」
「Heh……?」
We were dumbfounded because the question was more ordinary than we expected, but King Alfred paid us no mind and proceeded ahead.
「Then answer the question with the same breath.」
Prompted by him, Jeanne and I looked at each other and told him our answer at the count of three.
「Left arm.」
「Around the chest. B-because it's stuffy……」
I pointed at my left arm while Jeanne touched her chest.
「Fumu, different answer huh. Then it's penalty game.」
King Alfred raised his hand. Then a woman appeared from the corner of the stage pushing a trolley. I believed that person was Firill's former wet nurse, Helen-san. She was also present in the party as King Alfred's attendant. Something that looked like long boots made from metal was placed on the trolley.
「Wear them on your feet.」
It seemed that they were really boots just as their appearance suggested. I felt a bad premonition while we did as we were told. The inside felt unexpectedly soft because there was a cushion.
「That is a health instrument that my daughter gifted me for my birthday present some time ago. It's a powerful foot acupuncture point massaging device, "Agony Artisan".」
King Alfred spoke with an expression that looked somewhat dark. He took out something that looked like a remote control.
「When I first used it, a scream echoed through the palace and the royal guards rushed in. And then just as the name of this tool hinted, I fainted in agony for an hour……」
「O-one hour……」
My expression convulsed from King Alfred's speech that came from real experience, but beside me Jeanne only smiled confidently.
「It will be fine captain. I once heard that something like this won't feel that painful to human whose body condition is good. That's why──」

But the moment King Alfred turned on the switch, our screams reverberated through the venue.
And then one minute later, King Alfred told Jeanne and me who collapsed on the floor in agony with a pitying tone.
「It’s too bad but, this tool is effective even for small fatigue.」
The pain still remained on the backs of my feet even after Helen-san took off the massaging devices.
Jeanne was completely unmoving──everyone else looked somewhat creeped out by what happened to us, but next Ariella boldly stepped forward.
I mustered out my strength and somehow got back on feet, but there I suddenly noticed.
「C-could it be……I’ll keep receiving the penalty for each failure……?」
「Looks like it. That’s why Mononobe-kun, let’s finish it with this. Our breathing completely matched each other even when we fought together, so surely we can do this.」
Ariella encouraged me with a bright voice. With that I too somehow could fire up my heart that almost yielded.
「I ask thee. What is the most important thing needed in order to realize world peace?」
The question’s scale was really big in a complete opposite of the previous question.
The answers that Ariella and I produced were──.
「Deterrence.」
「Love……or something?」
King Alfred narrowed his eyes sadly.
「Penalty game──Agony Artisan.」
Our shrieks echoed through the venue once more.
But Mitsuki came next without any time for me to rest. As expected from someone who had bow as her fictitious armament, she secured a drone quickly.
「Nii-san, you can be relieved now that I’m here. I know everything about Nii-san, so I’ll definitely match your answer perfectly.」
Mitsuki challenged this trial without any fear even after seeing the fainting Jeanne and Ariella.
「Y-you’re right……let’s do our best, Mitsuki.」
I was already unsteady on my feet from the second penalty game, but I somehow stood up by borrowing Mitsuki’s hand.
And the question for the two of us was──.
「I ask thee. How many children does thou wish for after marriage?」
「Wha──」
Both of us reflexively looked at each other. Mitsuki was going bright red until her ears.
I also felt my face heating up while I answered together with Mitsuki.
「A-around two……?」
「Te-……ah, I mean, t-t-tw-, two children.」

Our answer matched after a fashion, but it was clear that Mitsuki changed her answer to match me.
「It’s too bad but, it’s disqualification if the answer isn’t at the same time.」
Alfred-san said that and carried out the penalty game.
「———!!」
Perhaps because of all her fatigue that had accumulated until now, Mitsuki writhed in a noticeable way before she went limp and didn’t move at all.
I had gotten a bit used to it, but I still couldn’t hold back my scream.
However I had no time to rest. Those who shot down the drone came one after another.
「Mononobe Yuu. I’m next. Even like this……I believe that I have a good understanding about you, so there should be a chance of success for us.」
Lisa wasn’t letting her guard down at all despite the confidence that she exuded.
But the ceremony’s question surpassed our expectation again.
「I ask thee. When your child start going to school, how much allowance thou are going to give them each month?」
Lisa looked my way after hearing that. She nodded briefly. It seemed that she was planning to match my sense of value.
And so I answered with the amount of allowance that I received when I was in the first grade of elementary school. Surely there would be no problem if I also used yen as the monetary unit.
「One hundred yen.」
「A thousand yen.」
Right after that, Lisa looked at me in disbelief.
「W-what can you possibly buy with one hundred yen!? You shouldn’t be able to even buy a canned juice with that in Japan!」
「……Lisa, there is snack that you can buy even with just ten yen in Japan.」
I knew that she would meet me halfway, even so it seemed that we still couldn’t bury the difference in sense of value between us completely.
And then both of us writhed in agony.
「Then next is me. Yuu, if you don’t want to get any more penalty game than this, you better match your answer with me.」
The next challenger was Kili.
She challenged the ceremony with a completely opposite stance than Lisa.
「I ask thee. What are thou going to do if thou happen to see an abandoned cat in a cardboard box at roadside?」
──I just need to match my answer with Kili huh.
I recalled her instruction just now and answered.
「I’ll pick and keep it.」
「I’ll ignore it──wait a second Yuu! I told you to match my answer right?」
「That’s why I matched it with what Kili will do. In the past, you once jumped into a river to save a kitten didn’t you?」
「T-that was, it was that kid that followed me on its own, because of that──」

Helen-san quickly put the massaging devices on our feet while we argued. Our conversation changed into a shriek midway.

「It’s more, that I imagined……」

Kili became one of the unconscious victims.

「……Mononobe Yuu. Next, can I, ask you to do it with me. No, this is just in order to quickly settle this matter, that’s all, it’s my responsibility as an educator──」

Then Shinomiya-sensei came while saying a similar line like Jeanne before.

「Yes, let’s do it.」

I who had my thinking capability being reduced from the repeated penalty game nodded in agreement without feeling particularly doubtful.

「I ask thee. Where do thou want to do greeting kiss in the morning?」

「Wha──what a shameless question……i-in the first place I’m still──」

Shinomiya-sensei looked shaken, but she gasped and looked at me before clearing her throat. She pulled herself together.

「V-very well then. Mononobe Yuu, this must be a slightly stimulating question for you but──please match your answer with my adult self.」

I heard her demand and answered after thinking for a bit.

「Lips.」

「Cheek…………wait, Mononobe Yuu. Just now, did you answer lips?」

Helen-san put the massaging device on the flinching Shinomiya-sensei.

「I’m sorry, I thought that an adult like Shinomiya-sensei might do it on the lips……」

I apologized while putting the massaging device myself.

「N-no way, to be so bold right from the morning──hauh!?」

The foot acupuncture point activated while she was in the middle of talking. Shinomiya-sensei showed the most reaction among everyone until now. As expected, it seemed an adult naturally had the most fatigue piling up.

I endured the pain while taking off the massaging device from Shinomiya-sensei who was in the verge of fainting.

「Ah! I did ittt! I finally hit one Mononobe!」

There I heard Iris’s happy voice.

「Wrong! It was Tia who hit it just now!」

But Tia was making some kind of objection.

「Nn, I think it was also my bullet that hit.」

「mIne Too, hIt aT thE sAme tIme.」

「No, that was mine prey!」

「My bad for the maidens, but it was me who caught the falling drone.」

In addition Ren, Shion, Vritra, and Charlotte also joined the argument. Because the drones’ number had been reduced, it created a situation where the participants were fighting for one drone.

Seeing that situation, Alfred-san gestured with his hand for all of them to get up on stage.

「Then, let’s carry out the ceremony with everyone. After all in the ancient history, there is also a record that mentioned how people who wished for polygamy challenged the ceremony too.」

Like that I, Iris, Tia, Ren, Shion, Vritra, and Charlotte ended up answering the question together.

「Mononobe, if we really end up married……w-what will happen? C-could it be my name will become Iris Mononobe? I’ll be Mononobe too?」

Iris was looking excessively restless before the ceremony.

「No! Tia will be the one who become Mononobe!」

Shion tilted her head in puzzlement when she heard Tia’s protest.

「aFter gEtting married……I’Ll become papa? Two papa? I’m Also pApa?」

「Nn, wrong. Onii-chan won’t increase. Eh……but, if we marry, Onii-chan won’t be Onii-chan anymore……?」

Ren also started to get confused about something and clutched her head.

「C-could it be, marriage is a ceremony that change one’s existence itself? In that case perhaps I have underestimated human all this time……」

Vritra made a strange misunderstanding and shuddered with a tense expression.

「O-oi, calm down. Char, calm everyone somehow──」

I asked for help from Charlotte who was the only adult among us here, but she was standing stock still in an absurdly tense state.

「D-did you say something, my friend. C-could it be that you are thinking that I’m seriously wishing to marry you? Don’t worry, I only love beautiful maidens……that’s, how it should be, but……for some reason my heart won’t stop pounding since some time ago. M-my face is also feeling hot, perhaps I caught a cold……n-no, as the Vampire something like that is──」

Charlotte was talking rapidly with a shrill voice.

She talked too fast that I couldn’t really hear what she said, but it looked like she didn’t have the composure to calm down everyone.

Alfred-san dispassionately asked the question in the middle of such chaotic situation.

「I ask thee. What do thou wish to do with thy beloved at holiday?」

──The thing we can do in Midgard is limited. The outside is also hot…….

I thought for a bit before answering at the same timing with everyone.

「I want to leisurely watch movie inside my room.」

Iris and Tia energetically answered.

「I want to swim together at sea!」

「Tia will make a large castle at beach!」

Ren and Shion answered a bit shyly.

「……Napping together.」

「I want tO Get lAp piLlow……fRom pApa.」

Vritra and Charlotte answered confidently.

「Wasting time playing game is the advanced and safe amusement of human. I know this without a doubt.」

「Of course it’s girls’ watching! Observing beautiful maidens together and discussing them……that will be the supreme holiday!」
Even though it was a common question where it shouldn’t be strange if some of us had the same answer, everyone’s answer was splendidly all over the place.
And then the Agony Artisans were put on us and we went through the penalty game simultaneously.
「──Guuh!?」
「Hauh!? I-it hurts, help me Mononobee~!」
However everyone else was looking puzzled while Iris and I were screaming.
「Eh? Tia is completely alright.」
「Nn, it just feels a bit ticklish.」
「i’M alSo fIne. Papa aNd otHers, arE fuNny.」
「To be in agony from just this much……isn’t it a bit pathetic of you as my comrade?」
「Fumu, it seems our feet are too small for this massaging device to work on us. No, it doesn’t mean that I have kiddy body figure okay? My friend, be careful to not make that misunderstanding.」
Tia, Ren, Shion, Vritra, and Charlotte were looking at our agony with a letdown feeling.
Stomp, stomp, stomp──.
Footsteps resounded at that timing.
I raised my face while enduring the intense pain. There I saw Firill calmly walking this way with an envelope in hand.
「Fufu, with this everyone has gotten a turn right? This is a ceremony that I started by my own initiative, so I have been waiting until after everyone has finished. Now──it’s finally my turn, Mononobe-kun.」
Firill came up on the stage with a bold smile. She was about to hand the envelope to King Alfred but……her movement suddenly stopped.
Firill looked around at the previous challengers who had received the penalty game and sighed.
「Haa……but, even if I win with this, somehow it will look like I have fixed the game. Then──yep, I have decided. Let’s make this question the last and answer it with everyone here like just now. But I’ll still definitely make Mononobe-kun into my prince even with that.」
Because of that proposal, all of us stood in front of King Alfred.
「……Firill, are you alright with this?」
I asked the girl who stood beside me. She nodded with a smile.
「Of course. I want to fight fair and square with everyone. I don’t want to be thought as cheating.」
Certainly this ceremony was something that Firill schemed, so it was also possible for her to set so that she got the easy question. Firill chose this method so that she wouldn’t be suspected with that.

「Got it. Then no matter what kind of question come, I’ll answer with what is in my mind without trying to match it with anyone else.」
「Yep, me too.」
Firill nodded.
Everyone heard our talk and also nodded in agreement.
Seeing that our preparation was finished, King Alfred asked the last question solemnly.
「I ask thee. What is it that thou wish to protect the most in this moment?」
The moment I heard that question, a lot of things came to mind.
I hesitated of what to choose from there, but I immediately realized that all those things could only be described with one word.
That was why I honestly said that word.
.
「──Now.」
.
Then our voices overlapped.
I didn’t hear any other word.
I looked around in surprise. There I saw everyone was also standing open mouthed.
And then, the one who was the most dumbfounded was King Alfred who asked the question.
──Could it be, everyone spoke the same answer?
What was the result of the ceremony in this case? Don’t tell me, it would be a marriage with everyone…….
Our gazes gathered on the witness King Alfred.
「…………」
He wordlessly glanced at his daughter Firill. While we were bewildered, it was only Firill who was staring at her father with sparkling eyes.
Sweat trickled down from King Alfred’s forehead when faced with his daughter’s gaze that was filled with expectation.
「……I planned to concede very, very reluctantly and recognized Firill’s marriage with Mononobe-kun but, a marriage with this number of people at the same time is……there is just no precedent of it……when we proclaim it, if it’s not in the way that the people can accept……Firill’s standing will also……in the worst case the trust toward the royal family will……」
He was murmuring while clutching his head.
It seemed that this was outside his expectation. Then Helen-san approached King Alfred and whispered something into his ear.
The moment he heard it, King Alfred made a taken aback look and straightened his posture.
And then he suddenly swished his mantel and turned his back on us. He solemnly declared.
「With this, the ancient Elria style marriage ceremony, the complete hard mode version is concluded.」

We held our breath waiting what kind of verdict would be handed down, but King Alfred slowly walked away without saying anything else.
He was walking straight toward the venue's exit──.
「F-father! Where are you going!?」
When Firill yelled in panic, he stopped walking in front of the exit and turned his face this way.
「……Listen well Firill. In order to validate the ceremony that we held this time, there is one thing that has to be done no matter what.」
「Eeeh!? Lies! I never heard about anything like that! Father said that this is the complete version!」
「I-I'm not lying! I just remembered after Helen told me! If from the result of the ceremony a commoner is going to be added into the royal family, that person will also have to receive the trial to be a royalty!」
There his sharp gaze pierced me.
「Mononobe-kun──if you wish to validate the marriage based on this ceremony, I shall have you overcome the king's trial at Elria Kingdom! I shall wait for your arrival anytime! Then, farewell!」
King Alfred said that and walked outside. Helen-san also bowed to us and followed behind him.
Firill saw off the back of the two and clenched her fists in frustration.
「Gununu……father really doesn't know when to give up. Even though going out of Midgard is also not something easy……」
However Firill shook her head as though to switch her mood and turned her gaze at us.
「Everyone, our fight has only just begun! Let's combine our strength and work hard together-!!」
Firill raised her clenched fist and yelled.
「I-I don't really get it but I'll do my besttt!!」
「Tia will do her besttt!」
「dO Our bEst!」
Iris, Tia, and Shion answered Firill's order, but everyone else dropped their shoulders in exasperation.
「……This result is just as I thought but, this commotion is still not over with this huh.」
Mitsuki sighed. Lisa placed her hand on her shoulder consolingly.
「Your schedule get messed up again with this. I'll help with decorating the hall.」
「I'll also help. My body feels really light. Perhaps it's thanks to that feet acupuncture massage.」
Ariella jumped up and down on the spot. Shinomiya-sensei also turned her gaze to her own feet seeing that.
「Certainly……the swelling in my feet is removed.」
「It was really agonizing that it made you fainted, but it looks like the result is also worth the pain.」
Jeanne also rubbed her feet in surprise.

「……Even so, the king’s trial huh. It has a really nice ring to it for some reason. I’m getting a bit excited.」
While that was going on, Charlotte seemed curious with King Alfred’s words.
「Nn. It has romance in it.」
Ren agreed. Vritra also nodded deeply.
「I’m also interested. The ceremony that human created is unexpectedly interesting. I shall participate too if there is no danger.」
Kili smiled wryly while murmuring.
「Setting aside the trial, I want to get outside Midgard too……perhaps I’ll help out with that.」
Seeing everyone like that made me thought.
That this was none other than the “now” that we wished to protect━━.
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◆ Christmas Epilogue

At 25 December, the last day of Christmas party.
The festivities in the hall ended at evening. As the executive committee member, I got busy with cleaning up the aftermath.
However after I got to a point where I could rest and looked around, I didn’t find my classmates who should be helping me anywhere.
When I asked the school staffs who were carrying out the baggage, they told me that they returned to the classroom not long ago.
They must have decided to leave after seeing that the number of workers here was sufficient, but it felt a bit lonely that they didn’t say anything to me.
──Perhaps I have done something that angered them.
I tried looking back, but nothing really came to mind.
I was too busy that I came late to the dance party where I promised to dance with everyone of Brunhilde class. The time I had to fulfill my individual promise with each of them also got shortened.
──I better apologize properly one more time to them.
The staffs said that I could leave the rest to them, so I exited the hall and headed to my classroom.
Right now each class was holding a modest party of their own in their own classroom.
Our homeroom teacher Shinomiya-sensei was eagerly making her special yakisoba for Christmas.
I hoped that there was a portion left behind for me while I walked through the corridor in a fast walk. I came until near the classroom.
「Eh……?」
But for some reason the classroom’s light was turned off. I also couldn’t hear any sound or voice.
「Could it be, they are having the party at the lodging house……?」
Even though I was wondering whether I was mistaking the place, I decided to check inside the classroom just in case.
Garararararara──!
The sound of door opening echoed inside the quiet building. Right after that, the room in front of me turned bright.
.
Pan pan pan-!
.

Explosive sound resounded at the same time.
I almost reflexively crouched because I thought it was gunshot sound, but I immediately realized that it wasn’t that kind of situation.
Everyone was there inside the bright classroom with a smile.
They were wearing cone hats in Christmas color and crackers in their hands.
And then everyone yelled together.
.
「Happy birthday!!」
.
Aa, come to think of it that was today.
Even though I remembered that until the party started, that fact had slipped off my head before I realized it throughout all the busy schedules.
A large serving of yakisoba and a big birthday cake were placed on the table.
The inside of my eyes suddenly turned hot for some reason when I saw that.
I held down the emotion that immediately welled up inside me. Even so something still leaked out slightly. I wiped it with the back of my hand──and faced toward everyone.
And then I replied to them with a smile.
「Thank you. Merry Christmas.」

Epilogue

.
「Mononobeee!」
「……Iris, what is it all of a sudden?」
My name was called with a strangely high tension and intonation, so I frowned and turned around.
What entered my eyes were a beautiful girl running toward me with a wide smile.
Her silver long hair shined from the morning sunlight shining from the corridor’s window. Her abundant breasts were jiggling with each step.
Everyone of Brunhilde class was living together in Mitsuki’s lodging house. It wasn’t that special for us to meet in the corridor at early morning like this.
But──Iris always slept late. It was undoubtedly abnormal for her to have woken up at six in the morning.
「You see, saying Mononobeee like that sounds a bit better isn’t it? I noticed it when taking a bath yesterday but, when doing it……yelling Mononobeee loudly like this makes me feel energetic.」
Iris raised her fist to the sky and yelled my family name like a cheering yell in a festival.
「……Sorry but I can’t empathize with that.」
I answered while feeling headache. I even harbored a doubt that perhaps I was still dreaming.
「Eee, even though I think it’s really niceee. You try it once too Mononobe. Come one, one twoo!」
「Why do I have to yell my own family name huh……or rather, Mitsuki will also dislike it if she hear it.」
I brought up my little sister who had the same family name like me, but Iris tilted her head in puzzlement.
「Mitsuki-chan told me that it’s nice you know? After that she said that she has work to do and went away though……」
「No, she obviously dislike it. I myself don’t feel really good with it so don’t do that anymore.」
「No wayyy……even though I want to adopt it for Brunhilde class’s group yell in the coming sports festival to increase our solidarity……」
「What kind of class will do that! That will make our group get called Mononobe group the next day if we do that.」

「Mononobe group……that sounds nice!」
「It's not.」
I bluntly asserted that and pointed at the jersey I was wearing.
「I'm going to do my morning jogging now. Can I go already?」
My training time would run out if I kept conversing pointlessly here. It was unexpectedly difficult to keep my body from dulling in this peaceful island.
「Ah, could it be special training for the sports festival?」
「Wrong. It's my daily training. I'm doing it everyone. You don't know?」
「Ah……nope. I'm always sleeping in until just a moment before breakfast after all……that's right-! Mononobe──can I come with you?」
Iris who scratched her head in embarrassment grabbed my hand tightly.
「For jogging?」
「Yes, I want to do my best in the sports festival……also, I'm eating Mitsuki-chan's delicious sweets everyday so I'm worried with my weight……」
「Nnn……」
To be honest, my training's efficiency would drop if I matched my pace with Iris. But Iris stared up at me while fidgeting when she saw me hesitating.
「As I thought……it's no good? I'll be a bother?」
「──No, I get it. Then let's go.」
I sighed and started walking toward the entrance.
「Mononobe, thank you! Jogging in the morning feels like something good isn't it?」
Iris happily walked at my side. She stared at the morning scenery from the corridor's window.
「Then, will you run together with me every day from now?」
「Uu……I'm really happy that you invite me but……it might be impossible for me to wake up in this time every day.」
It seemed that she had the self-awareness that she was a sleepyhead. Iris's shoulders dropped in dejection.
「Well, that's true. But, how can you wake up this early today in that case?」
I remembered my first question and asked Iris.
「Aaa……right, about that……」
Iris's gaze wandered around before she clenched her fist and thrust it toward the sky.
「Moononobeee!」
「W-what's with you so suddenly. Or rather stop that already.」
「Ahaha……sorry. But, I need just a bit more energy no matter what.」
Iris said that and walked to in front of me. She stared at me with a serious expression.
「I think you don't remember it Mononobe, but today is a special day for me. That's why I want to meet Mononobe earlier than anyone else today.」
「A special day……」
Nothing hit home even after she told him that. Today wasn't the birthday of either of them, and it was also an ordinary weekday without any event.

However seeing Iris's expression that was filled with expectation, he thought and thought──he finally realized.
「Aa, I see. Today is──」
I stared back at Iris and murmured. I remembered. There was no way I would forget it.
What crossed my mind was the figure of a beautiful girl who appeared at the beach.
That day one year ago, I didn't know anything about her until that moment.
Both of us each walked a life that wasn't involved with each other at all, so that was only natural.
However the path we walked from there overlapped.
Even though we should be strangers, it became natural for us to be at each other's side.
When I realized her smile was always there.
Of course even now──.
「Do you remember?」
「──Time pass really quickly.」
When I answered like that at Iris's question, she happily smiled.
「Yep, you're right. Mononobe……thank you for meeting me this day one year ago.」
「What's that……is it really something that you need to thank me for?」
It was too embarrassing that I averted my gaze and scratched my cheek.
「Yep, it is.」
However Iris affirmed it clearly, so I also resolved myself. I met Iris's gaze and inhaled.
「I too……am glad that I met you Iris.」
But I couldn't endure any further than that, so I patted Iris's head to cover up my shyness.
「Eheheee」
Iris moved herself to rub her head on my head while looking truly happy from the bottom of her heart.
「This is a rare chance, so let's run until the beach today. Come to think of it, that time your swimsuit was washed away Iris──」
I tried to talk about the past memory, but Iris turned bright red and covered my mouth with her hands.
Like this, our special ordinary day began.



Afterword

.
Long time no see, it’s Tsukasa.
This time the volume Unlimited Fafnir EX Infinity World consisted of short stories collection + prequel + side stories. Thank you very much for getting this volume.
To think that the SS that I wrote for special perks of the previous volumes will ever become a volume like this. Especially the SS for volume one until three, I thought that they would never become a book anyway──because of that I remember that I wrote them really freely.
This time I reread them once more but……they are even wilder than I perceived and I was really troubled of how to revise them.
But my editor Shouji-sama said that wild part is interesting, so in the end I didn’t change them at all except of changing some vocabularies and they were compiled almost exactly the same like the original.
And then there was the impact from the illustration of Korie-sensei for those SS……! To think that I’m able to see illustration for this scene──I was really moved.
Actually I experienced being allowed to write this many special perks SS for the first time in this series. I believe that they were extremely good experience for me.
And even among them, the game meeting (the series that were compiled as Brunhilde Gamers) that became a regular for the special perks was something that I myself really enjoyed writing. It became a hint to depict the daily life episode of the main story in a charming way.
I was also happy to be able to write SS for the main story that was mainly about the ordinary days, like the school festival or the firework festival.
I added □~Side Story□ at the title so that those chapters are easier to understand, so I think that perhaps you will be able to enjoy them even more if you also read the main story at the side.
But, these special perk SS, including the other SS were written as “something that is fun to read, but doesn’t has any effect to the main story even if you don’t read it”.
The main story was fundamentally depicted in the first person view of “Mononobe Yuu”, so I removed him from the stage and paid attention to separate the “experience” of the main character and readers from there.

The stories don’t affect the main story at all, so of course you can also enjoy them as side stories only.
That’s why, even for readers who don’t read the main story until the end and only know of Unlimited Fafnir from anime or manga, you can also read the side stories casually. That will make me happy.
Fafnir Zero that was compiled in the second chapter is a story that depicted the events before the main story’s first volume.
Unlike the first chapter, it also contain a lot of serious parts, but I was able to have fun in a different meaning from the SS when writing it.
Mononobe Mitsuki is one of the main heroines of the main story, but at the same time I also think of her as the other main character. By obtaining the chance to thoroughly depict her “beginning”, it felt like I myself was able to understand her deeply.
And then the third chapter, Christmas Panic is the after story that was especially written for this volume. It depicted a part of the path that Yuu and others are going to walk from here on. I hope everyone can enjoy them.
Then for the thanks section.
Korie Riko-sensei. Not only for the after story, you also drew the illustrations for the SS compilation and the prequel, thank you very much! I’m really happy that I can see the lovely figures of Iris and Mitsuki and the others again!
My editor Shouji-sama. I’m really grateful that you created this chance for me to write this EX volume. I could also grow together with Fafnir was thanks to Shouji-sama.
And then last but not least, my greatest thanks to all of you readers! Thank you very much for reading Unlimited Fafnir!
Well then, until next time.
.

February 2018 Tsukasa


あとがき
お疲れ様でしたー！
銃皇無尽のファフニール
ついに完結 ><
最後まで関われて
本当に幸せです♥
ありがとう
ございました!!
梱りこ
サービス
深月ちゃん♥

Credits

Translation Group: bakapervert
EPUB is done by JLN

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6. Chapter 3 – Merry Christmas ─Newly Written Short Story─
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Landmarks